

THE TIMES Tomorrow

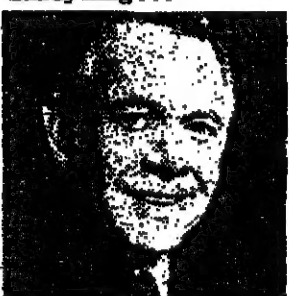
Home thoughts...
Charles McKean predicts that houses will be collapsing in the streets if the Government does not step in to improve Britain's housing stock.

From abroad
The latest books about life and politics in the Soviet Union are reviewed by Count Nikolai Tolstoy and Iain Elliott.

Rum...
As Jamaica goes to the polls, a report on Edward Seaga's constitutional gamble.

And coke
From Colombia, a disturbing analysis of South America's secret weapon - cocaine.

Candy king...



... at the Court of St James: Charles Price, the Kansas City candy tycoon who is the new US Ambassador to Britain, is the subject of The Times Profile.

Regional aid shake-up

Radical changes in the pattern of regional aid to industry are proposed in a White Paper from Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Industry. It envisages a cut in spending, favours service industries, and calls for lower wages in areas of high unemployment. **Page 2**

Sterling drops to all-time low

The pound fell below \$1.42 for the first time and weakened against other currencies as speculation over North Sea oil prices combined with the continued strength of the dollar. **Page 15**

Mosley's friend

Sir Oswald Mosley, the British fascist leader told interrogators in 1940 that Adolf Hitler was a charming if emotional man who liked him. **Page 3**

Ozal's choice

Turkey's first civilian Cabinet since the 1980 military coup named by Mr Turgut Ozal, the Prime Minister, was approved by President Evren. Fighting inflation will be its top priority. **Page 6**

Nanny's fires

The paranormal took a back seat at the Italian trial of Scottish nanny Carol Compton as a formidable governess gave evidence on the fires that led to the girl's arrest. **Page 8**

Bowled out

An attempt to hasten the reduction in the number of overseas players in England failed at a Test and County Cricket Board meeting. **Page 20**

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Murray's future at stake after his repudiation of NGA

By Paul Routledge and David Felton

The future of Mr James Murray is at stake after his repudiation of support for the National Graphical Association (NGA) led to the abandonment of a planned unlawful one-day strike.

The 51 members of the TUC General Council have been called into emergency session to decide whether the labour movement should back Mr Murray's policy of respect for the law or left-wing union leaders who seek continuing defiance of the Government's trade union legislation.

Both sides were anxiously counting heads last night before the "vote of confidence" on the conduct of Mr Murray which was denounced by the NGA general secretary, Mr Joe Wade, as unprecedented and divisive.

Mr Murray's critics were confident of winning the censure vote, but moderates rallying to his cause were equally sure that they would carry the day.

The planned 24-hour strike in national and local newspapers was suspended yesterday at a meeting of the NGA's governing national council. Afterwards union officials vented their anger at Mr Murray's repudiation of the decision of the TUC employment policy and organization committee to adopt a "supportive" attitude towards the protest strike.

NGA leaders complained about Mr Murray's action in publicly rejecting the committee's nine-to-seven vote in favour of the strike. Mr Wade said: "The dispute will continue, and in the meantime I hope Mr Murray's repudiation of the committee decision will be rejected by the general council".

He predicted that "this unprecedented action" would encourage many more trade unionists to join a mass demonstration in Warrington, Cheshire, this afternoon. It is being organized by the North-West TUC to protest against the refusal of Mr Selim (Eddie) Shah, chairman of Messenger Group newspapers to reinstate six dismissed NGA workers and grant the union a closed shop.

Mr Shah said yesterday that he is going ahead with suits claiming £90,000 damages from the union to cover the cost of alleged damage done to his printing works at Winwick Quay during mass picketing.

Strike costs 2
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that so far has cost the union £675,000 in fines for contempt of court orders made under the Employment Acts, 1980 and 1982.

In the High Court in London, injunctions preventing the NGA from reimposing its threatened strike were granted to provincial newspaper groups, including Westminster Press, Essex County Newspapers, Berrows Newspapers, Northern Counties Newspapers, and United Newspapers.

Mirror Group Newspapers became the last Fleet Street publishing house to win a similar order restraining the strike.

Mr Murray's critics were confident of winning the censure vote, but moderates rallying to his cause were equally sure that they would carry the day.



Battle joined: Mr Murray (left) and Mr Wade.

union from disrupting production with secondary industrial action.

The industrial argument will take second place today to the fierce political infighting in the TUC.

Led by the Transport and General Workers' Union, Mr Murray's critics will argue that he has exceeded his authority in publicly denouncing a decision of an influential committee of the general council and that he had no legal ground for arguing that a general message of support for the NGA strike would attract legal action against the TUC of the kind already taken against the craft print union.

If Mr Murray fails in his attempt to limit TUC support for the NGA he will be obliged (in the words of one of his critics) to "consider his position".

TUC officials refuse to countenance the possibility of the general secretary's resigning, but some union leaders are pointing to the precedent set by Mr Sidney Weighell, who left his post as general secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen a year ago after losing a vote of confidence.

Mr Murray will argue that he was compelled to repudiate the committee decision publicly because if he had not done so the TUC would have been risking contempt of court penalties for supporting an unlawful strike and damages possibly amounting to many millions of pounds.

His supporters were suggesting last night a 25-21 majority for the general secretary, but the result will hinge on how many moderates take part in the vote. Failure to attend by five key backers of Mr Murray's position led to his defeat in the employment committee meeting.

Continued on back page, col 3



Memorable meeting: The Duchess of Kent in deep conversation with Mr William Webb (left) and Mr Bertie Pearson, both of Gillingham. She was attending a Christmas party at Buckingham Palace for the Not Forgotten Association.

US and Israeli ships shell Palestinians and Syrians

Securely had President Gemayel left Lebanon for Beirut yesterday than both the American and Israeli navies launched simultaneous separate bombardments of Palestinian and Syrian Army positions near the Lebanese coast.

Two American guided-missile destroyers steamed off the coast of Lebanon during the afternoon and fired a barrage of 5in shells on to Syrian positions in the mountains east of Beirut after the Syrians had earlier fired at American reconnaissance jets while 30 miles to the north Israeli gunboats opened up on Palestinian guerrillas in the northern port of Tripoli.

It was clear that American flights over the Chouf mountains had been interrupted during the afternoon when naval jets from the Sixth Fleet began overflying Beirut in pairs at low level, swooping over the Mediterranean and then returning over the foothills to break the sound barrier not far from the Syrian Army's forward artillery positions above the capital.

Soon afterwards, the USS Triconderoga and another American warship moved close to the shore 12 miles north of the capital and began firing towards the mountains, the shells landing near the snow-line not far from the town of Dour Shweir where Syrian troops maintain one of their foremost positions.

The Syrians confirmed that their ground fire had been directed at two US F14 jets but described the subsequent American naval fire as a new aggression, claiming rather unconvincingly that it only a damaged military vehicle.

Syrian officials stated after America's air raids just over a week ago that the Syrian Army would continue to shoot at US reconnaissance jets. They appear to have meant what they said.

At almost exactly the same time as the American naval shelling, Israeli gunboats appeared off Tripoli and began firing towards the port area of the city where Mr Yasser Arafat's guerrillas are preparing to be evacuated over the coming fortnight.

Beirut radio reported that the naval bombardment lasted for 45 minutes and that scores of shells fell into the harbour area. The Israelis gave no reason for the barrage but denied a Palestinian claim that one of their vessels had been hit by fire from a PLO long-range gun.

Only a few hours earlier, Palestinian dissidents who are surrounding Mr Arafat's forces in Tripoli had warned that they would resume their siege of the city if the PLO leader did not sail from the port by December 21.

A spokesman at the Palestinian Fatah guerrilla offices in Damascus, undoubtedly echoing Syria's own views, claimed that Mr Arafat was deliberately delaying his own evacuation and that any bloodshed that followed further postponement would be his own responsibility.

Continued on back page, col 5

Kinnock and Thatcher clash

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, in the middle of furious Commons exchanges with the Prime Minister over the National Graphical Association dispute, said yesterday that he had no intention of conceding law-breaking.

But he added, after being asked by Mrs Margaret Thatcher to condemn the NGA for contravening the law, that he also had no intention of being a drill sergeant for "divisive and ruinous Tory legislation", which had turned a union problem into a "national industrial volcano".

Mr Kinnock's remarks, which neatly encapsulated the dilemma into which Labour leaders have been placed by the dispute, came after the Prime Minister had refused his demands to intervene by asking the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service to convene a committee of inquiry. "She has a direct and absolute responsibility and the buck stops with her", Mr Kinnock said.

The Prime Minister retorted that it was clear that what the Opposition really wanted was the Government to force Mr

Selim ("Eddie") Shah, chairman of the Messenger Newspaper group, to give in to the union's unreasonable demands. The British people wanted, and had voted for, the law to uphold the right of employees to reject the closed shop.

She said that the TUC believed in upholding the law. "The law is indivisible. You cannot choose which parts to uphold and which not to uphold. They should all be upheld."

Mr Kinnock accused the Prime Minister of "dodging" her obligations.

Trident bill could rise by £1,375m

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

The devaluation of the pound against the dollar could have added £1,375m to the bill for the Trident nuclear deterrent since 1980.

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, has taken a political decision that Trident costs will not be updated on a regular basis. The latest official costing of £7,500m, is therefore based on 1981 prices and exchange rates.

But the 1982 defence estimates stated that the September, 1980, costing of £5,990m had been increased by "some £700m" because of the fall of the value of the pound from \$2.36 to \$1.78 in September, 1981.

This year's defence estimates said that 45 per cent of the Trident programme would be spent, in dollars, in the United States "and hence the recent fall in the exchange rate, if sustained throughout the life of the project, would result in increased costs".

The latest exchange rate, of \$1.42 to the pound, represents a

further devaluation of more than 20 per cent on the September, 1983, rates used by the Ministry of Defence.

That fall in the value of the pound could represent a further £675m increase in Trident costs, without the price rises which will have resulted from inflation.

The Ministry of Defence emphasized last night that Trident expenditure was not expected to reach a peak until the last few years of the 1980s and, therefore, the effect of the devaluation was not, for the moment, significant. It did say, however, that the range of "uncertainty" in defence spending, resulting from exchange rate fluctuations, was about £100m to £200m a year.

Mr Heseltine told *The Times* earlier this month that Trident would be a central issue between the Conservatives and Labour at the next election because decisions taken by the next Parliament would affect the independent British nuclear deterrent.

QE2 cruise delayed by engine fault

By Michael Bailly, Transport Editor

The Queen Elizabeth 2 arrived back from her £4.5 refit in Germany last night eight hours late because of engine trouble. A fault developed in a boiler soon after the 67,000-ton ship left the shipyard at Bremerhaven.

However, Cunard did not blame the Germans for the trouble. Work, it is believed, was carried out on the boilers in Germany - but by British contractors.

The ship anchored in the river outside the yard, and engineers on board carried out repairs.

She docked at Southampton at about midnight. During the delay nearly 1,500 passengers, who were expecting to sail on her five hours earlier, were winced and dined by Cunard in Southampton. She was due to sail at about 4am on a three-day cruise of the English Channel for which passengers had paid between £145 and £565 each.

Kamikaze attack feared at Los Angeles Games

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

The latest car bombings in Kuwait have raised concern among United States security officials that terrorist groups may use "human bombs" to carry out future kamikaze-style attacks on Americans and other Western targets.

A report in the *Washington Post* yesterday quoted Administration officials as saying that the use of fanatics seeking martyrdom in suicide attacks had "opened up a whole new spectrum of violence".

The officials said they were on the look-out for "human bombs, people walking around with TNT strapped to their bodies".

Although United States officials are mainly concerned about further suicide attacks in the Middle East, where the radical Shia Muslims believed responsible for the recent

attacks are based, they are also concerned that outbreaks of kamikaze-style terrorism may be attempted in the United States.

They pointed out that two months ago an Israeli tourist was arrested in the public gallery of the House of Representatives with explosives strapped to his body.

Recently lorries, cars and other obstacles were used to block off entrances to the White House and the State Department after a warning that a car-bomb attack was being planned.

American officials are particularly concerned that the forthcoming Olympic Games in Los Angeles or the World's Fair in New Orleans could be singled out for terrorist attacks. They said it was almost impossible to guarantee protection of such events against suicide bombers.

Thatcher faces setback over vital defence job

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

The Prime Minister is expected tonight to suffer a reverse in the management of her party in Parliament when Conservative backbench defence specialists choose a chairman for the all-party Select Committee on Defence.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher's candidate is Sir Humphrey Atkins, whom she has long sought to reward for his service as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and his resignation from the Foreign Office with his ministerial colleagues, Lord Carrington and Mr Richard Luce, at the time of the Falkland invasion.

However, most of the seven Conservatives nominated to the committee opposed him on the grounds that he has shown little interest in defence, in



Contenders (from left): Mr Michael Mates, Mr Michael Marshall, Sir Humphrey Atkins, Mr Winston Churchill.

spite of service in the Royal Navy. Labour's three nominees share these doubts.

Many MPs even say Mrs Thatcher would like this potentially critical committee to have a chairman who will give her little trouble.

Most of the nominees advocate strong defences for Britain, and the committee, if vigorously led, might form an

awkward alliance with Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence if defence spending came under renewed pressure.

More than the defence chairmanship, however, is at stake. If Sir Humphrey were chosen he would also become, on seniority grounds, chairman of the Liaison Committee.

This committee co-ordinates the work of all Commons select committees, and decides which supply estimates are debated by the Commons. Its chairman, formerly Mr Edward De Courcey, has potentially one of the most influential backbench voices, and most Prime Ministers probably would prefer a tame incumbent.

If Sir Humphrey is kept out of the defence post he cannot have the liaison job either, so he and Mrs Thatcher will be twice failed.

There are MPs in all parties who hope this will happen. Those who want the departmental committees, first set up in the last Parliament, to be effective monitors of the executive believe experience is essential and that every committee should choose its chairman from those who have already given some service.

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London fear after IRA bomb

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

A Provisional IRA bomb planted close to one of London's main shopping streets and aimed at bringing havoc to Christmas crowds was disarmed by a Scotland Yard explosives team yesterday.

The bomb containing 10lbs or more of commercial explosives attached to a timing device would have created damage for up to 200 yards. It was left against a wall in Phillimore Gardens, just off Kensington High Street shortly before the shopping crowds were swollen by office workers on their lunch break.

Police also had to deal with three other suspect packages in the high street which was closed from midday until after dusk. Police believe the packages may have been deliberately left to use up police resources and disrupt shopping.

Last night Commander William Huckleby, head of the Yard's anti-terrorist squad, said the disarmed device clearly indicated the start of a Provisional IRA Christmas bombing campaign in London. He repeated earlier warnings to the public to be alert and on the guard.

Mr Huckleby said the bomb was only partially destroyed in a controlled explosion and it was a sophisticated device which "would have devastated an area of up to 200 yards away".

He said that the bomb bore similarities to IRA bombs seen in London in recent years and there was no doubt it was the work of the organization, but he could not say that it was from the same source as a device which damaged the guard house at Woolwich Arsenal last weekend.

Mr Huckleby said the bomb had been left without any warning and the aim was clearly to disrupt Kensington High Street. He said: "It was aimed to do as much damage as possible and to kill indiscriminately."

The bomb was left in a holdall near the entrance of a large block of private flats, Troy Court. It was first seen by a passerby who alerted a traffic warden.

Explosives experts partially detonated the device by remote control.

As the other suspect packages were discovered dotted along the street, several of them in shops, police cleared the length of the normally busy shopping centre. Dogs trained to sniff out explosives were brought in and the explosives experts, wearing blast-proof clothing and armour, moved from one package to the next. Several were examined using a robot device first developed in Northern Ireland.

At one stage a police helicopter flew overhead using a loud hailer to warn people to keep away from windows and the street was finally reopened just as the day's shopping hours ended. **Photograph, page 2**

New regional aid policy to favour service industries

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Sweeping changes in the way aid is given to industry in poorer areas of the country are proposed in a government White Paper published yesterday. Job creation and value for money will become the chief criteria for handing out public funds in the depressed areas, and emphasis will be shifted from manufacturing to service industries.

In future all grants will be subject to a cost-per-job ceiling, although this will not apply to small companies and the Government expects that the proposed changes, coupled with a redrawn map of assisted areas, will cut the amount of money spent on regional aid.

A key point in the White Paper is the Government's belief in the "natural adjustment of labour markets". It calls for lower wages and unit costs in areas of high unemployment. "Wage flexibility, combined with a reputation for good work and a constructive attitude to productivity and industrial relations, would increase the attractiveness to industry of areas with high unemployment."

Legislation to be introduced early in the new year will move the emphasis of regional aid away from automatic grants to factories where new machinery is being installed to individual projects which create or expand capacity.

Total spending on regional assistance in 1982-83 was £917m, of which £690m was in regional development grants. The White Paper, presented by Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, proposes that this proportion be reduced, and that the bias towards manufacturing industry be removed in favour of the service sectors.

Ministers believe that activities such as insurance or production of computer software are more likely to create jobs and set down roots in the assisted areas than capital-intensive heavy manufacturing.

The embryonic new regional policy is part of the Government's rejuvenated approach towards the nation's industrial redevelopment and its attempts to grapple with the widespread structural changes in the economy that have been accelerated by recession.

The White Paper's proposals tie in with the recent submission by the Treasury to the National Economic Develop-

ment Council that manufacturing employment will continue to decline in favour of the private service sector.

The White Paper says that the Government wants to encourage greater geographical and occupational mobility by making the planning system more sensitive to changing needs, through housing policies and portable pensions.

But it concedes that labour mobility cannot be relied on as a solution "as it tends to be the young, the more skilled and the more enterprising who are ready to move in search of work, possibly leaving the less-favoured localities with a still more dependent population and a workforce less able to climb out of disadvantage."

Despite several years of study of regional aid, the White Paper is largely a consultative document and raises many more questions than it answers.

It calls for submissions by the end of next May on many matters including which activities should qualify for regional development grants, the rates of the grants, the balance between automatic and selective assistance, and the criteria for designating assisted areas.

In particular, it invites views on the assisted area map, now over 10 years old, and on the big rise in unemployment after the 1981 census. The present three-tier map shows intermediate areas being mostly in the South-west, North Wales and the North-east, development areas in Cornwall, north and south Wales and the Scottish Highlands, and special development areas centred on Glasgow, Newcastle upon Tyne, Merseyside, Anglesey and Glamorgan.

The new map has been postponed until next autumn to allow the Department of Employment time to collate data on travel-to-work areas from the 1981 census. The White Paper says: "A tightly drawn map would focus assistance on the areas of greatest need; a wider coverage would allow assistance to go to more areas with real, but untapped, potential for industrial development."

One of the first reactions to the White Paper came from Sir Campbell Fraser, president of the Confederation of British Industry. He said that regional policy should make sure that areas such as the West Midlands, which is not in an assisted area, enjoyed equal treatment.

Caesarian births double

By Our Social Services Correspondent

Women having a baby are more than twice as likely to have a Caesarian section than they were a decade ago, despite the growing pressure for natural childbirth, according to a report from the Maternity Alliance published yesterday.

A survey by the alliance shows that about one in nine mothers (10.6 per cent) now has a Caesarian section.

The survey to which more than 80 per cent of maternity hospitals and one in five consultant obstetricians replied,

suggests that the reasons for the increase include medical staff fears of litigation in the event of the birth of a handicapped child and a shortage of staff experienced in difficult deliveries.

The report says health authorities should monitor Caesarian section birth rates, that research should be undertaken to examine the psychological and emotional effects on mothers and babies.

One birth in nine: Maternity Alliance, 309 Kentish Town Road, London NW5; £2.00.



A bomb-disposal robot in Kensington High Street after Christmas shoppers were cleared yesterday (Photograph: John Evans)

Rise in work accident deaths

By David Cross

The number of people killed in accidents in industry has risen for the first time in several years. Mr James Hammer, Chief Inspector of Factories, said yesterday.

He blamed the rise in fatal accidents from 236 in 1981 to 256 in 1982 partly on an increase in maintenance work by outside contractors. Too often, outside contractors, unfamiliar with the equipment they were servicing, worked without proper control or supervision, he said.

The latest report on health and safety in manufacturing and servicing industries, which Mr Hammer was introducing, showed that during the three years from 1980 24 per cent of fatal accidents within the responsibility of the factory inspectorate involved maintenance work. Most of the deaths were in factories (110) and in the construction industry (129).

The increased use of outside contractors was accompanied with reduced manning levels in

many companies, Mr Hammer said. Another important cause of deaths in industry last year was road and internal transport, particularly heavy goods vehicles and forklift trucks. More than a quarter of accidents and a fifth of fatalities involved the use of vehicles.

In one steelworks, for example, a survey of 11 haulage contractors' vehicles found that that nine were unfit for use on the highway but were kept for use in the works. The defects were due to neglect rather than to particular conditions on the site, the report said.

The factory inspectorate was also concerned at the increasing

number of businesses failing to register with the authorities. With a trend towards smaller companies, owners often had too little capital and too little knowledge of safety requirements, the report said.

A further difficulty arose with small new businesses which kept moving address.

Mr Hammer characterized them as never staying long in any one place, having a high turnover of employees, very poor working conditions "and a very aggressive attitude towards inspectors".

The inspectorate was looking into ways of making a more systematic search for unregistered companies, he said.

| | 1978 | 1979 | 1980 | 1981 | 1982 |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Manufacturing | 157 | 147 | 123 | 105 | 120 |
| Construction | 121 | 119 | 128 | 98 | 97 |
| Port and inland water | 13 | 14 | 9 | 8 | 9 |
| Other | 29 | 35 | 34 | 25 | 30 |
| All industries | 320 | 315 | 294 | 236 | 256 |

Pact aimed at Soviet Union

How West controls high-tech exports

In the wake of the Second World War the United States and 14 of its allies (the Nato countries, excluding Iceland and Spain, as well as Japan, which joined in the early 1950s) have formed an informal pact to restrict the export of goods and equipment able to enhance the military and strategic standing of the Eastern bloc.

The organization, called the Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls (CoCom), is based in Paris. Through its guidance, lists of restricted exports are published.

The British guidelines are published through the Department of Trade and Industry. A guide to exports controls outlines six areas of exports which are sensitive and subject to control: national security, nuclear non-proliferation, animal warfare, national heritage, conservation of supplies.

After concern over the Soviet Union seeking access to western high technology products, Bill Johnston examines the arrangements between western countries for controlling the export of sensitive equipment.

They are not all the subject of CoCom interest, which is largely concerned with the high-technology sector under the heading of "national security".

The present guidelines say: "Controls do not apply to the export of goods from the UK. Only certain goods are affected—strategically sensitive high-technology industrial goods such as chemical and petroleum equipment, electrical and electronic equipment (including computers), scientific apparatus and instruments."

The decision to approve the

export is based on three factors: strategic, where the Ministry of Defence is advised; diplomatic, where the Foreign Office is consulted; and economic, where the Department of Trade makes its own decisions.

Goods bound for the Soviet Union, Albania, Poland, the German Democratic Republic, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, North Korea, Vietnam, Mongolia and Communist China are liable to scrutiny. The Department of Trade and Industry guidelines say: "It may be necessary for the Department to seek the approval of the international coordinating committee (CoCom) before an export licence is issued."

The United States is particularly anxious in inhibiting the export of high-technology products and has attempted to expand the restrictions list.

Leading article, page 13

Strike could have bankrupted NGA

By Rupert Morris

The National Graphical Association, whose assets are estimated to be worth up to £11m, would have faced the possibility of bankruptcy if it had proceeded with its threatened strike in national and local newspapers yesterday.

On top of the fines for contempt of court totalling £675,000, the printing union is liable for a further £200,000 in sequestrators' costs since November 25—a sum rising by between £10,000 and £12,500 every day.

The union's 24-hour stoppage of national newspapers on November 25 led to injunctions and damages claims from 12 publishers amounting to £3m. Yesterday's threatened strike would have led to a similar damages claim from Fleet Street for £3m, plus a claim from local newspapers publishers which

might have totalled anything between £1m and £3m.

Large newspaper groups such as Westminster Press and United Newspapers would each have been able to claim the £25,000 maximum damages. Certain leading individual titles such as the Birmingham Evening Mail or Yorkshire Post might also have been able to claim the maximum.

A further cost that may yet be laid at the union's door is the extra administration for the sequestrators involved in tracking down union branch accounts and local assets.

The union also faces a writ for damages of more than £30,000 which Mr Selim (Eddie) Shah, chairman of the Messenger Newspapers group in Cheshire, is bringing because of damage to his building allegedly caused by unlawful picketing.

Four sequestrators who stay resolutely aloof

By Thomson Prentice

High in a 25-storey office block overlooking the Thames, four men were computing the cash figures of the National Graphical Association yesterday and remaining resolutely aloof from the latest salvoes in the industrial dispute.

The building contains the offices of Price Waterhouse, the accountancy firm. The company has 187 partners in Britain, including 103 based in London. For the past two weeks four of them have had one client only in the courts.

Since November 30, when the Master of the Rolls, Sir John Donaldson, made the sequestration order, the four partners have been trying to track down every penny of the NGA's assets, in total more than £11m.

The yave large powers enabling them to do so. If ever, in doubt, they can, and do, turn for guidance to volume 17 of Halsbury's Laws of England, whose editor-in-chief is the Lord Chancellor, Lord Hailsham, of St Marylebone.

"Halsbury's is our Bible in these matters", a Price Waterhouse official said yesterday. Volume 17 defines sequestration as "a remedy of last resort to enforce a judgment or order which requires a person to abstain from doing a specified act".

In taking possession of property under a writ, the sequestrators "are not expected to use force. They may, however, break inner doors or boxes to get possession."

Nuclear safety warning

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

Leaders of 60,000 emergency service workers yesterday threatened to withdraw cover on big nuclear accidents unless safety measures were not radically improved.

Firemen and ambulance workers were not trained or equipped to tackle dangerous leaks such as those at Three Mile Island in the United States, representatives said.

Mr Rodney Bickerstaffe, general secretary of the

National Union of Public Employees, which represents ambulancemen, and Mr Ken Cameron, general secretary of the Fire Brigades Union, said there should be a full public debate on the issue.

The two were speaking as part of a grouping of five unions and eight local authorities formed to lodge a protest at the inquiry over plan to build a pressurized water reactor power station at Sizewell.

Mr Bickerstaffe said:

"We have little difficulty on Monday in brushing aside Viktor Korchnoi's feeble resistance and winning after only 30 moves."

Now the score is Kasparov 5½, Korchnoi 3½, which means that Kasparov needs only one more point from the remaining three games to win and qualify for the final of the candidates series of matches.

Kasparov opened with the Catalan System, the sixth time this variation has been employed in the match. Korchnoi's defence was the reverse of impressive. He played a line that resulted in the exchange of his Queen's Bishop for White's King Bishop, but that left him even weaker on the white squares of the long diagonal.

Kasparov took energetic advantage of Korchnoi's positional pressure to place enormous pressure on his opponent's Queen's wing. By move 24 he had won a Rook for a Knight and the game was practically over.

Korchnoi played on hopelessly for another six moves and then resigned.

It is most unlikely that Korchnoi will recover from this



Giveaway mood: Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, playing Father Christmas at a party at 11 Downing Street in aid of the Handicapped Adventure Playgroup Association (Photograph: Bill Warhurst).

Phantoms get overhaul

The first of 15 Phantom supersonic fighters which the Royal Air Force is buying from the United States Navy for £46m are beginning a six-month overhaul to extend their operational life.

The RAF wants the aircraft to offset the one squadron of its Phantoms which has been stationed in the Falkland Islands.

Top Tories aided MEP on Ulster report

From Ian Murray, Strasbourg

Senior Conservatives helped Mr Niels Haagerup, the Danish Liberal MEP, to prepare his report on Northern Ireland for the European Parliament, even though Mrs Thatcher made it clear that the Government would not cooperate with him.

Mr Haagerup said yesterday that he had no difficulty in getting information for his report, which details the background to the present situation and suggests ways in which the EEC might help.

He said he had talks with all four British political parties, although he refused to give names because of the Government's refusal to have any official contact with him. He also said he had direct help from government officials in collecting facts.

"The position of the British Government in this is part of the problem," he said, "but that is a problem for the British Government and not for me."

Lady Elles, the leading Conservative MEP on the Political Affairs Committee, said yesterday that although her group still objected to the report many of the fears expressed about it had been unjustified. The group would, however, table amendments to the report about extradition.

● The Israeli methods for beating terrorists will be studied by the Democratic Unionist Party at the start of a fact-finding mission into international terrorism next week. A delegation will visit Jerusalem to see how Israel protects its frontier as the party wants security along the border between the Irish Republic and Northern Ireland tightened.

£885m Severn barrage plan

Proposals for a combined second Severn crossing and tidal power generating barrage at a privately financed cost of £885m are being considered by the Department of Energy after restrictions on the use of the Severn Bridge.

The department is considering a £7,000m plan, still in its early stages, for a barrage to be constructed across the Severn.

The new scheme, prepared by Wimpey Atkins, was explained to MPs at the Commons yesterday.

Weapon clue in Jones killing

A weapon resembling an ice pick was used to kill then disfigure beyond recognition Mrs Diane Jones, the wife of Robert Jones, of Coggeshall, Essex, the police believe.

The police think that the unusual nature of the weapon, which almost certainly resembled an ice pick, a mining hammer, or a roof tiler's hammer, may help them to identify the killer.

Farm warning

Life will be much tougher for farmers in the next few years, Professor Ronald Bell, the newly-appointed director general of the Government's Agricultural Development and Advisory Service told a press conference yesterday. He said: "Farmers need to address themselves to what the customer wants."

Police hold three

Three men wanted for questioning in connection with an attempted robbery on a Post Office van south of Bristol two weeks ago were arrested by more than 20 police in a raid on a guesthouse in Plymouth early yesterday. A shot was fired during the raid.

Kasparov brushes aside feeble defence to win

By Harry Golombek

Gary Kasparov, aged 20, the Russian chess player, took the Russian chess player, Viktor Korchnoi, to win his match in the Acorn Computers World championship semi-final in London.

He had little difficulty on Monday in brushing aside Viktor Korchnoi's feeble resistance and winning after only 30 moves.

Now the score is Kasparov 5½, Korchnoi 3½, which means that Kasparov needs only one more point from the remaining three games to win and qualify for the final of the candidates series of matches.

Kasparov opened with the Catalan System, the sixth time this variation has been employed in the match. Korchnoi's defence was the reverse of impressive. He played a line that resulted in the exchange of his Queen's Bishop for White's King Bishop, but that left him even weaker on the white squares of the long diagonal.

Kasparov took energetic advantage of Korchnoi's positional pressure to place enormous pressure on his opponent's Queen's wing. By move 24 he had won a Rook for a Knight and the game was practically over.

Korchnoi played on hopelessly for another six moves and then resigned.

It is most unlikely that Korchnoi will recover from this



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69% of house-owners 'want conveyancing monopoly to be ended'

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

A national survey conducted for the Consumers' Association this month indicates that 69 per cent of house-owners believe that it would be good if people other than solicitors were allowed to convey property.

It also emerges from the survey, conducted by Marplan among more than 1,400 people, that 46 per cent of those questioned think that the solicitors' conveyancing monopoly should be ended, compared with 20 per cent who think the monopoly is a good thing, 13 per cent who have doubts about it, and 20 per cent who have no opinion.

Of 899 house-owners in the sample, 52 per cent believe that the system should be changed. The results of the survey were announced at a press conference yesterday by Mr Austin Mitchell, Labour MP for Great Grimsby, whose House Buyers Bill has its second reading on Friday. He said that the figures indicated that public opinion was overwhelmingly in favour. That was essential when fighting a vested interest.

Mr Mitchell said he believed that it was "touch and go" whether there would be a majority for the Bill on its second reading. "I think the prospects are 50-50".

The Bill is supported by the Labour Party, for which it is a manifesto commitment, and, according to Mr Richard Ryder, Conservative MP for Norfolk Mid, one of the Bill's sponsors, has the support of many senior government ministers as well as a hard core of Conservative MPs.

"It would surprise and disappoint me if their view did not prevail. I would be disappointed if the Government did not come out in its favour", Mr Ryder added.

A further boost to its hopes lies with a commitment of support from the leaders of the three opposition parties, Mr Neil Kinnock, Mr David Steel, and Mr David Owen.

Mr Kenneth Weetich, Labour MP for Ipswich, another sponsor, is optimistic that they will win a majority.

He thought that on a free vote of the full House the Bill would have a handsome majority, but the difficulty was that the second reading takes place on the last Friday of the session when many MPs will want to be away to their constituencies.

Mr David Trench, the Consumers' Association legal officer, said he believed the Marplan survey indicated that there was a big majority of people looking for the kind of changes that the Bill would produce.

He added that one monopoly must not be replaced by another. He did not want the right to convey property merely extended to solicitors working for building societies or banks. There must be outside competition.

"Only when conveyancing becomes genuinely competitive, with properly licensed non-solicitors as well as solicitors, banks and building societies all undertaking conveyancing, will consumers get the choice they so clearly want and our system of house transfer begin to move into the twentieth century", he said.

The House Buyers Bill is intended to speed and make cheaper and more efficient the system of buying and selling houses by stimulating competition.

Mr Richard Ottaway, Conservative MP for Nottingham North and a solicitor, has decided to risk the wrath of the Law Society by voting for the House Buyers Bill on second reading (Philip Webster writes). He said yesterday that he believes it is in the public interest to have more competition.



Concerted effort: Cassie Bell and Hiroko Nagano from Fitzjohns primary school, Hampstead, London, who were among 2,000 London schoolchildren who joined numerous stars for a carol-singing concert at Wembley Conference Centre yesterday to raise money for the charity Motability. (Photograph: Bill Warhurst.)

BL Montego named after Ford saloon

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

The BL car with the code-named LM11, to be called the Montego.

The name has been registered by Ford and used on one of its big Mercury saloons made in Detroit in the early 1970s. It is understood, however, that Ford has given Austin Rover permission to use the name in Britain and Europe.

Sneak pictures of the Montego, a challenger to Ford's Sierra and Vauxhall's Cavalier in the mass-market, upper-medium sector, were taken by a German photographer at the Gaydon proving ground, a former airfield, near Warwick.

The gap through which the pictures were obtained has been closed with an earth screen. A similar screen has been put up to shield another part of Gaydon where cars would be visible.

BL wants to build a £10m

high-speed test track at Gaydon to accelerate development on new cars for Austin Rover, Jaguar and Land-Rover.

It is seeking planning permission for a 3½-mile, three-lane circuit with steeply banked turns at the end of long straights. Most of the circuit would be below ground level to reduce noise.

A further 174 acres have been bought from a farmer to extend the present 770-acre site which is restricted to endurance and reliability tests. For high-speed work it has had to rent the Motor Industry Research Association's centre near Nuneaton, Warwickshire.

£1,000 turkey

A turkey weighing 7½ lb 7oz was sold for £1,000 in aid of charity in London yesterday. It was produced by Dale Turkeys of Ludlow, Shropshire.

Actor had liver disease

John Le Mesurier, the actor, suffered from cirrhosis of the liver, an inquest was told yesterday.

But Dr Alexander Gibson, pathologist, said tests had failed to link the cirrhosis entirely with the actor's history of "moderate to severe alcoholic intake on occasions". Mr Le Mesurier, Sergeant Wilson in the television comedy series *Dad's Army*, died last month, aged 71.

Dr Gibson told the hearing in Broadstairs, Kent, that he would give Mr Le Mesurier, of London Road, Ramsgate, the benefit of the doubt.

Dr Gibson gave the cause of death as gastro-intestinal haemorrhage and cryptogenic cirrhosis, which might be associated with a previous hepatitis. The coroner, Miss Rebecca Cobb, recorded a verdict of death from natural causes.

Doctors' skills 'wasted' BMA seeks hospital cash shift

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Waiting lists could be shortened, money saved and patients given better and quicker treatment by shifting resources from hospitals to family doctor services, the British Medical Association's general practitioners committee said yesterday.

In a report on the state of general practice, the general medical services committee argues that family doctor services have been neglected and doctors' skills wasted, despite governments' commitment to the idea of care to the community.

The share of National Health Service resources spent on family doctor services has fallen from 10 per cent in the 1950s to about 6 per cent, the report says.

Dr John Ball, committee chairman, said that shifting the balance of care and resources from hospitals to family doctors

would mean treatment could be given more economically and effectively.

Doctors could undertake much more minor surgery, reducing waiting lists and the time and money spent on hospital referrals. Many repeat visits by outpatients for diabetes, hypertension and chest disorders could be handled by family doctors, as could paediatric surveillance, the checks on children's development up to the age of five.

With more nursing and other staff chronically ill and elderly patients could be better cared for at home, releasing hospital beds.

Such developments, Dr Ball said, would relieve hospitals of burdens they do not need to carry.

At present, he said, hospitals were sending home patients more quickly, adding to the work of family doctors, but

resources were not being given to general practice to meet the extra work.

"Many brave statements are made about transferring care to the community." But although the Government was prepared to transfer the responsibility and the obligation, it was not ready to transfer resources to enable the job to be done properly, he said.

At the same time false economies were being made as hospitals sent patients with only two days' supply of drugs, or minimum amounts of dialysis fluid for kidney patients using the ambulatory dialysis technique. That reduced hospitals' spending, but saved the NHS nothing as family doctors had then to prescribe the medication.

General Practice, A British Success (British Medical Association, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP, £5).

National straw fire rules urged

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

National controls on straw burning, with no variations in local by-laws and with substantially increased penalties for transgression, are being called for by the National Association of Local Councils.

In a letter to Mr Michael Jopling, Minister of Agriculture, the council, which represents some 7,500 parish, town and community councils in England and Wales, calls for an urgent research and survey programme into other methods of straw disposal.

In the meantime the National Farmers' Union code of practice should be tightened to include a restriction on burning within 100 yards of any road or a neighbour's boundary. Fire brigades should be empowered to levy charges on landowners responsible for fires.

However, the council concedes that many of its members doubt the effectiveness of any control measures and feel that the only solution is a total ban. Despite the NFU's public protests to such a ban.

At the Royal Smithfield Show last week there was considerable interest in a number of new machines for chopping straw into small enough pieces to be incorporated into the soil without inhibiting the new crop.

Husband admits killing

Peter Reyn-Bardt told Chester Crown Court yesterday that he killed his wife more than 20 years ago during an argument over money.

Reyn-Bardt, a former British Overseas Airways Corporation official, who denies murdering his wife Malika, said he had dismembered her body with an axe at the cottage he shared with a homosexual friend.

The prosecution has claimed that Mr Reyn-Bardt, aged 57, of Crompton Court, Knightsbridge, west London, confessed to killing the woman after the discovery of a human skull in May.

He allegedly told detectives that he strangled her at Heathfield Cottage in Wilmslow, Cheshire, and cut her with an axe before burying the remains.

The court has been told that Mrs Reyn-Bardt was last seen alive in October, 1960, and that she had threatened to expose her husband's homosexuality and disgrace him.

Peter Goodwright, the impressionist, bought the cottage only months after the alleged killing, the court was told. Mr Goodwright said in a statement that his gardening was limited to mowing the lawn and weeding the beds, but in the two-and-a-half years he spent in the cottage he did not see any bones of any description.

The trial continues today.

Blondel moves to West End

The musical *Blondel*, which opened the Old Vic, London, under its new Canadian ownership last month, has turned into a surprise hit. The show had poor reviews but it has proved such a success with audiences that it will transfer indefinitely to the Adwych on January 20. It will be replaced at the Old Vic by David Pownall's *Masterclass*, starring Timothy West.

Lucky 16,609 for marathon

Letters were posted yesterday to the 16,609 British runners whose applications to take part in the 1984 London Marathon have been accepted. A further 50,000 have been rejected.

The UK runners will be joined on May 13 by nearly 900 recognized athletes and 2,500 overseas competitors. The race director, Mr Christopher Brasher, said there was a record entry.

Airports' £32m

A £32.5m investment programme at Manchester, East Midlands, Bournemouth, Cardiff, Norwich, Southampton, Bristol, Teesside, Cardiff, Luton, Newcastle upon Tyne, and Humberside airports has been approved for 1984-85, Mr David Mitchell, Under-Secretary of State, Transport said yesterday.

Arthritis drug banned

By Our Social Services Correspondent

Health ministers yesterday suspended the licence of the anti-arthritis drug Floxint, after the deaths of seven patients taking it and reports of serious side-effects, including internal bleeding, in 200 more.

The drug, launched in the United Kingdom in September last year and sold by the Italian-owned Farmatila Carlo Erba, based in Hertfordshire, is the third anti-arthritis drug to be taken off the UK market in the past 18 months.

An estimated 75,000 patients have been prescribed the drug and about 10,000, mainly elderly, are believed to be taking it now. The drug was due to be discussed by the Committee on Safety of Medicines on Thursday, but the department said that in view of the "urgent concern about safety" ministers decided they had no alternative but to suspend the drug immediately.

The committee has received reports of side-effects in 217 patients, including seven deaths, but it suspects the true rate of serious side-effects is higher. Patients using Floxint should consult their family doctors, the department said.

The suspension of Floxint comes after the removal from the market last year of Open after the deaths of 76 patients.



Mr Henderson: Objects to defence policy.

Backing for protest poet

Mr Hamish Henderson, the Scottish poet who made public his reasons for refusing the offer of an OBE in the forthcoming New Year's Honours, has received hundreds of messages of support for his action.

Mr Henderson, aged 64, of Edinburgh University's School of Scottish Studies, said that he had decided to break the customary silence surrounding royal patronage after a meeting last week of Scottish Writers Against the Bomb.

In his reply to the offer, he wrote: "Please inform the Prime Minister that in view of the fact that her suicidal defence policies, organized in collusion with the Americans and their crazy, trigger-happy President, are putting at risk the continued survival of the human species on this planet, I cannot possibly see my way to accepting this honour."

Mr Henderson, who served throughout the Italian campaign during the Second World War, said that the only government he could have envisaged accepting such an honour from would have been the Labour Administration of 1945.

A Downing Street official said last night "It is his right to refuse".

Skinheads jailed for attacking soldiers

Four skinheads who fought with Scots Guards bandmen at a summer fête on Carlisle racecourse were jailed yesterday.

Judge Temple, at Carlisle Crown Court, gave them terms of six to fifteen months. He said: "There developed a most ugly and obscene episode. It was an outrage, it was disgraceful and it was an abomination."

He said the guards were attacked by a mob of young men who were "fighting drunk".

Eleven bandmen went to hospital with head wounds and broken bones.

The judge added: "Grown

Doubt over middle schools

By Virginia Makins, of The Times Educational Supplement

Middle schools, which were designed to ease children's transition from primary to specialized secondary education, are often an expensive and not very successful way of meeting the needs of the nine to 13 age group, according to a report by school inspectors (HMI).

Only five of 48 schools they visited reached good standards all round. In another third standards were found to be generally satisfactory for most parts of the curriculum.

"In only about one quarter of the schools were children of above average ability given suitably challenging tasks", the report says.

Most schools taught a full and appropriate range of subjects but several were short of specialist facilities, and some had no teachers for music, home studies, religious education and craft design and technology.

The larger schools, with 360 children or more, produced the highest standards. High standards were also significantly linked with good resources - but resources were found to be good in only ten schools, and adequate in only two-thirds. Schools that started specialist teaching the earliest, with the 10 to 11 year olds, had better results.

The inspectors' criticisms of teaching methods reflect criticisms in their other reports on both primary and secondary teaching. Too much of the work involved listening to teachers or copying facts. Too little was based on first-hand experience.

9-13 Middle Schools, An Illustrative Survey (Stationery Office £4.95).

Satellite TV scheme is in disarray

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent

The Government's plans for beaming television programmes directly into homes via a satellite are in disarray. Today the companies due to build the satellite will be seeing Department of Trade and Industry ministers in the hope of rescuing the project.

The project, envisaged towards the end of the last decade, was to have had a high-powered satellite beaming five channels directly into the home by 1986 via a roof-mounted dish-aerial. Last year, the BBC agreed to take two of the channels, using a satellite to be built by a consortium of British Aerospace, GEC-Marconi, and British Telecom.

Two things, however, have happened to throw those plans into confusion. First, the BBC in the last six months has begun to have doubts. There has been increasing concern about whether sufficient viewers would subscribe to enable the BBC to recoup construction costs of £170m plus the £180m it will cost to run the service over the satellite's seven-year life.

The doubts were increased when the Government of the Irish Republic announced last month that its own broadcasting satellite, which will beam programmes into British homes, would be operating in 1987.

Second, one of the leading British consumer electronics manufacturers, Thorne-EMI, told the Government that equipment to receive the programmes would not be available in sufficient quantity and at the right price until 13 months after the BBC satellite launch.

To add to that, the Independent Broadcasting Authority was told in September that commercial television companies could also broadcast by satellite from 1987. Unlike the BBC, however, they would not

be tied to using a British-built satellite. They could, that is, shop around for the best deal.

Having considered matter for several months, the BBC is now terrified of the consequences of taking the wrong decision. On the one hand, going ahead amid uncertainty could invite bankruptcy; on the other, it could find itself leading the commercial companies in a new generation of broadcasting.

On Monday this week the BBC's chairman, Mr Stuart Young, and the Director-General, Mr Alisdair Milne, told Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, of their worries. Tomorrow the BBC is expected to make its final decision at a board meeting. Much will depend on whether Mr Brittan offered government help or concessions.

Finally, the wild card in the pack is the advent of a different kind of satellite broadcasting that uses a cheaper satellite of much lower power to send programmes not directly into homes but to cable television operators. They would then redistribute programmes on their networks. Cable operators would be obliged to carry all satellite channels, including the BBC's but the corporation has little idea so far what charges the cable operators would levy.

One possible way out of the dilemmas being canvassed in the industry is to have just one satellite system operated jointly by the BBC, IBA, and possibly the Irish operators.

Computer rejected

The Independent Television Companies Association has rejected the idea of launching its own microcomputer in competition with the BBC's. The endorsement of such a product would have been a breach of the Broadcasting Act and could have robbed the network of competitive advertising.

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Hitler liked me, Mosley told interrogator

By Peter Hennessy and David Walker

Adolf Hitler was a charming if emotional man with a "great sense of humour", some one who could not resist a good party, according to the affidavit of the British fascist leader Sir Oswald Mosley in 1940.

Questioned after his imprisonment under the Defence of the Realm Act about his links with Germany, Mosley boasted that Hitler had liked him, had admired his wife Diana, and had been entranced by Diana's sister, Unity Mitford, an early member of the British Union of Fascists.

The hitherto secret transcript of Mosley's interrogation, kept back by the Home Office beyond the normal 30-year period because of its reliance on MOS's testimony, reveals Mosley's private opinions of both the continental dictators, Hitler and Mussolini.

Hitler was "a very emotional person", between the lines Mosley speculates about his sexuality. On the one hand he was attracted to Unity and the relationship was "that of a man



Mussolini and Unity Mitford: The father of fascism and an eager follower.



The father of fascism and an eager follower.

to a child. He is always laughing and making jokes."

On the other hand, he admired strong women such as Lady Mosley and Frau Goebbels. "He would treat Unity Mitford as an English girl... he would talk to my wife seriously as a more or less grown-up person and as an English woman."

Mussolini, by contrast, was every inch the public man with a huge personality. Whenever one went to Rome one was liable - it caused me immense

embarrassment - to be drawn out in public. "On the first visit, they were having a big march and Mussolini suddenly sent me a message: 'Would I stand in the tribune instead of him?'"

That was a ruse, Mosley told his questioner, Norman Birkett, KC. "I was photographed with him in the tribune and I have been taunted about it ever since all over the world."

But in addition to the domestic vignettes, Birkett, a skilful interrogator, drew from

Mosley a picture of what would happen in Britain if a fascist government took power. Automatically, Mosley said, "party politics fade out... so that the microbe of party politics cannot live". The opposition would have no power.

"One might say it was based on Caesarism, certainly Bonapartism."

Throughout his questioning Mosley maintained that the trade marks of the British Union of Fascists, its shirts and slogans, all derived from British rather than foreign models. They had borrowed the idea of big marches from the Durham miners; spotlights on the leader from the Salvation Army; and the use of the "hail" salute from the Elizabethans.

One memorandum shows the security service closely monitoring one of Mosley's former secretaries and another discloses that M15 bugged his prison cell. The advisory committee chaired by Norman Birkett was told in advance how Mosley would try to defend himself. The information "was derived from a very secret and delicate source".

PARLIAMENT December 13 1983

Government still keeping out of newspaper row

NGA DISPUTE

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, reaffirmed in the Commons that the Government would not intervene in the dispute between the Messenger Group and the National Graphical Association and that it upheld the right of the individual to reject a closed shop. She rejected a request by Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, that Acas should be asked to set up a committee of inquiry. When Mrs Thatcher asked him to condemn the NGA for contravening the law, Mr Kinnock retorted that he had no intention of condoning breaches of the law but also no intention of being a 'kill sergeant' to divisive and ruinous Tory legislation.

In the exchanges on the dispute Mr Timothy Egan (Enfield North, C) said: Does not the news that the NGA is to picket again at Warrington challenge the whole basis of our democratic values. Surely all of us in this House have a right and duty to protect employees' decisions whether or not to join a closed shop? If we do not do this, we are going to see democracy undermined.

Mrs Thatcher: I am not quite certain whether the NGA have decided to picket again, but I wholly agree that the employees at the Warrington Messenger Group have exercised their right by ballot to reject a closed shop.

They must be protected in the exercise of that right and this dispute is about the NGA attempting to intimidate them nevertheless to join a closed shop. That is wrong. The law must be seen to protect these employees.

Mr Kinnock: Would she welcome the decision of the NGA to suspend their strike and use the pause it has made available to external powers in order to bring the various parties together to produce a settlement? For instance would she ask Acas to convene a committee of inquiry?

Mrs Thatcher: No. Acas was set up by a Labour Government. It is there to conciliate, that is its job, it is not for the Government to intervene.

Mr Kinnock: Others, like Acas, are prohibited from exercising their powers of conciliation by the Employment Protection Act which has a direct and absolute responsibility and the back stops with her. She could exercise her power. If she will not, she will give way to others to get the Government to intervene.

Mrs Thatcher: He makes it clear that what the Opposition really want is for the government to force Mr Shah to give in to the union's unreasonable demands. That we will not do. We uphold the right of employees to reject a closed shop, a right given them by law.

Mr Kinnock: We want the Resolution of a dispute which has been turned by Government legislation from a union problem into a national industrial volcano. That is the direct responsibility of the Government.

The Opposition and the country want the Government to fulfill its responsibilities to end this dispute.

Mrs Thatcher: What I believe the people of this country want, and I believe they voted for, if for the law to uphold the right of employees to reject a closed shop.

Does he condemn the NGA for contravening the law? Will he uphold the right of the individual to reject a closed shop?

Mr Kinnock: I am fed up with the Prime Minister, who has power, trying to dodge it by trying to avoid her obligations. I have no intention of condoning breaches of the law and no intention of being a drill sergeant for devious and ruinous, Tory legislation.

Mrs Thatcher: Will Mr Kinnock concede that the intimidation of employees is withdrawn from the law?

Mr Kinnock: I agree. The TUC believes in upholding the law. It is right in a democracy.



MacKay: Mr Murray's sensible advice

and uphold their right to reject a closed shop.

Mr Andrew MacKay (East Berkshire, C): There is to be more picketing in Warrington tomorrow (Wednesday) despite Mr Len Murray's sensible advice. It is an act of gross intimidation of innocent workers that Mr Colin Barnett of the North-West Region of the TUC has promised that tomorrow's demonstration will be the largest Warrington has ever seen.

Mrs Thatcher: I understand that there is to be a demonstration tomorrow. I understand that it will be well away from the works. There is a right of peaceful demonstration. Mr Clive Selley (Hammersmith, Lab): Many of my constituents have had no post for nearly two weeks. (Conservative laughter) They are deprived of serious and important letters concerning business and hospital appointments, very largely because the Post Office has refused arbitration from Acas.

Is Mrs Thatcher going to continue to underplay the role of Acas so that she can continue her war against the trade unions?

Mrs Thatcher: There is a recognised procedure for conciliation. It is essential that the procedure be followed and the Government will not intervene.

Mr Timothy Yee (South Suffolk, C): The action of the TUC in discouraging the NGA from proceeding with its strike is most welcome and shows a concern for NGA members which the NGA has not shown, and a respect for the law.

In that respect, the TUC General Secretary set an example which Mr Kinnock could well emulate.

Mrs Thatcher: I agree. The TUC believes in upholding the law. It is right in a democracy.

Why FO is keeping Falklands papers

HOUSE OF LORDS

A suggestion that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office were retaining documents about the Falklands Islands which had been borrowed from the Public Records Office, came under fire yesterday when Lord Hailsham's case on sovereignty was made by a Labour peer in the House of Lords.

The exchanges began at question time when Lord Avebury (Lib) inquired when it was intended to return the documents and why the Foreign and Commonwealth Office refused either to publish a list of papers abstracted or to allow access to them, notwithstanding the fact that none of the documents were classified.

Lady Young, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, replied that matters related to the question of sovereignty over the Falklands Islands continued to require detailed study of the records. To publish a list as requested would involve disproportionate expense.

When records were no longer required they were returned to the Public Records Office. Lord Avebury said that when he spoke to the records administration office yesterday they told him that a number of documents were still being retained. They expected a decision to be made shortly on their continued retention by the Foreign Office "depending on the political situation".

He asked: What changes in our relationships with Argentina have to be accomplished before these documents are returned to their rightful place?

Race code to be amended

The Government intends to amend Section 47 of the Race Relations Act 1976 so that the Secretary of State for Employment will be able to amend the Commission for Racial Equality's code of practice on employment.

Mr Alan Clark, Under Secretary of State for Employment, indicated this in a Commons written reply, said the Government was reviewing the unsatisfactory current code.

making procedures in the 1976 Act as they gave the minister no choice but to comment or reject codes in their entirety and did not allow him to amend them.

It was therefore intended to amend the provisions to give the minister such a facility. Precise details had yet to be decided but the amending legislation would provide that codes already in operation could be used to be re-submitted under the new procedures.

Service for patients, not provider

HEALTH SERVICE

Money saved as a result of the privatisation of NHS catering services goes to patient care, Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Security, insisted at question time in the Commons.

Mr Michael Meecher, Chief Opposition spokesman on health and social security, had said that the two main companies hoping to pick up the catering task following privatisation were Cross House Foods and Town and City Properties.

They have shareholders' lists (he went on) that read like a roll-call of the Tory Party, including a former Tory Party chairman, a host of Tory MPs past and present and the present Tory Government ministers.

It is no clear that what privatisation is all about is forcing down the pay of some of the lowest paid in the NHS in order to enhance the profits of greedy Tory shareholders, many of them the Secretary of State's own colleagues?

Mr Fowler: That is thoroughly silly question. The point is that the money which comes from savings in contracting out goes to patient care. I wonder what he thinks the health service is about. It is a service provided for the patients, not for the provider.

Foreigners who want to pay NHS

The Government is looking at the position of foreign visitors to Britain who wish to pay for national health service treatment, Mr John Patten, Under Secretary of State for Health and Social Security, said during questions in the Commons.

Mrs Jill Knight (Birmingham, Edgmont, C) had complained that some foreigners who tried very hard to pay for the services they received were prevented from doing so by hospital administrators.

Mr Patten replied that Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Health, was reviewing the position.

Legislation soon to recast regional aid

INDUSTRY

Legislation is to be introduced as soon as possible to provide for a new structure for regional industrial incentives involving major changes to the regional development grants scheme, Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said in a statement in the Commons.

He said that he had today published a White Paper on regional industrial development and that the department would soon publish a factual background paper on the effectiveness of regional policy and other regional issues.

He said: The Government remains firmly committed to an effective regional policy. Although the economic case for regional industrial policy today is not clear cut, and the economic costs of such policies must be set against the benefits, there remains a social case for regional industrial policy to reduce regional imbalances in employment opportunities.

The Government believes that there is scope to increase the effectiveness of regional policy and to achieve better value for money in the regions with less adverse effects on the economy as a whole.

The White Paper sets out a new structure for regional industrial incentives, replacing the regional development grants scheme.

At present regional development grants concentrate on capital intensive projects and a manufacturing industries.

In future we propose that RDGs should be aimed more precisely at job creation. The new RDG scheme will be wide in scope to cover parts of the service sector in addition to manufacturing.

However, RDGs will in future be payable only towards projects which provide or modernize capacity and simple replacement investment will not qualify for RDG.

Grant will be payable as a proportion of capital expenditure, or as an amount for each new job created by a project, whichever is the more advantageous to the investor, but where grant is paid in respect of capital expenditure, it will be limited by a cost-per-job ceiling.

For the sake of simplicity, small firms will be exempt from this limit. These changes shift the payment of automatic grant assistance to projects which create jobs.

In addition, the importance of selective assistance relative to RDGs will be increased, and relocation projects which offer no net increase in jobs will not normally be eligible for regional selective assistance.

Industries great importance to the automatic and predictable nature of the RDG scheme. Therefore, grant will continue to be paid at standard rates and by reference to published criteria.

To avoid disruption or uncertainty arising from these changes there will be a 12 month transition period from the introduction of the scheme before it takes full effect.

For projects which have already been offered selective assistance, RDG will continue to be paid under the old rules, not the new.

The old rules, not the new, will apply for projects for which application has already been made, but the new rules will apply to any proposals to extend these to regions in England where there is undoubtedly a great need where unemployment figures are at a similar level as they are in Wales and Scotland.

What part does he envisage for local government generally in the regional development and, in particular, for local government enterprise boards?

What thought has he given to the regional pattern of public expenditure on roads, water supply and the whole range of public infrastructure, which has a major impact on the prosperity of the different regions?

Mr Tebbit: He was, of course, entitled to imply that the best form of aid for the regional economies is a healthy economy overall and that is precisely why we need the new regional policy which will not only be more effective than which we have been using up to date, but also that it will be operated at a lower cost in order to help the progress of the economy as a whole.

I hope this background will be available shortly. It would hardly have been possible to publish the whole of the material which the Government has been considering over recent years.

We do not intend to introduce agencies on the Scottish or Welsh model into England.

The prime part local government can play is to ensure that the regional pattern of public expenditure, keep down their rate demands upon businesses and stop taxing businesses out of existence.

Mr William Clark (Croydon South, C): I am delighted that there is an emphasis on service industries, but they are more labour-intensive than manufacturing industry. Would he impress upon the Chancellor that whereas we give 100 per cent grants to service industries, the manufacturing industry that same amount of fiscal aid is not given to service industries.

Mr Tebbit: It is wrong that we should discriminate in our regional economic policies against the service industries. No all service industries would qualify for regional grants. There would be a number of little points, for example, in subsidising new greenhouses to come into an area where there was already an adequate supply of greenhouses.

On the other hand there would be good reason to assist through regional policy the setting up, for example, of software industry houses as a service industry in the assisted areas.

We will consider carefully what he says in his statement and the White Paper about changes in RDG.

Taking tube and buses from GLC

TRANSPORT

London Transport had been thrown to the mercies of the Greater London Council in 1969 and it was time to end this unsuccessful 14-year experiment, Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, said in the Commons in moving the second reading of the London Regional Transport Bill.

He said the GLC had been given a duty to promote the provision of integrated, efficient and economic transport facilities and services for Greater London. They now saw transport services which were not integrated, not economic and most certainly not efficient.

Costs had soared as passenger demand declined while capacity remained broadly constant. The inevitable consequence had been a huge rise in the total subsidy bill to £370m in 1982.

The GLC faced five vacancies on the board with its own nominees and later also appointed the chairman of the London Labour Party and the organiser of Mr Ken Livingstone's unsuccessful attempt to capture the Labour Party nomination for Brent East.

He expected the next vacancy to be filled by Arthur Scargill who at least had undoubted experience in the underground.

It was wrong that the GLC should seek to turn LT into a political appendage of itself. Mr Livingstone had castigated the Government's aim to run LT as a business. The

expensive campaign to kill the Bill was a dishonest and reckless use of £350,000 of taxpayers' money. It was nothing less than scandalous. It was lucky that London buses had almost not started, or no doubt the GLC would make the ratpayers fork out more money to do so.

No Government with the interests of Londoners at heart could sit idly by despite these extraordinary events. It was time to bring to an end this experiment with London's public transport, and quickly.

Transport Executive would assume its new name, London Regional Transport, and its new identity while retaining, at least initially, its physical manifestation.

One of the most important long-term reasons for the Bill was the need for closer cooperation between London's bus and Underground services on the one hand and British Rail services in the London region on the other. The Bill would ensure that in future the two major operators in London would be subject to compatible policy and financial frameworks.

He intended to set up a liaison committee consisting of two representatives from the two bodies under his chairmanship. These new liaison arrangements should secure the changes everybody wanted to see. If they did not, the Bill contained further important powers that could be activated any time up to eight years from the Bill's enactment.

The main bus company would be encouraged to form smaller subsidiaries to take over the decentralisation of their bus operations already started by LRT.

LRT would be under an obligation to involve independent suppliers in the provision of public transport and other services wherever this made economic sense.

New licensing arrangements would enable for the first time independent operators to be provided in London through licences granted by the Metropolitan Traffic Commissioners. In this way (he said) we shall be seeking to loosen the interests of healthy competition the monopolistic position that London Transport has held since 1933.

A contribution from the ratpayers (he continued) has in fairness to be secured. I will be accountable to the GLC for the amount levied. There would be a separately identifiable item on the ratpayer's rate bill. Ratpayers were paying more now than they would pay in future.

Ridley: Huge rise in total subsidy bill

The need was for LT to be allowed freedom to run its affairs with a minimum of political interference and control, but within clearly stated financial and policy objectives. LT was important in a national context, thus the strategic control and some of the financial support should come from central Government. This was the Bill's starting point.

LT would be kept as it was but changed with having a new board from the GLC to the Government. The change would occur on a day appointed by him as soon as possible after the enactment of the Bill. At the same time, the London

Pop singer faces drug charge

Steve Strange, a pop singer, was granted bail yesterday after he elected to go for trial before a jury on a charge of possessing cocaine.

Mr Strange, aged 24, whose real name is Stephen John Harrington, of Hamilton Terrace, St John's Wood, London, appeared at Highbury Magistrates' Court.

He appeared with Eric Payne, aged 23, of east Finchley. Both were charged with having a bottle of 58m of a powder containing cocaine hydrochloride at the Camden Place Night Club in Camden High Street.

Mr Payne was also given bail.

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Within that decline there will be a fall from the mid-1980s in the number of pensioners and a rise in the population of working age, who, if they do work, will tend to be of older age pensions easier to bear. For each pensioner this year there are 2.77 members of the labour force; in 2001 there will be 2.99.

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The Chancellor will listen carefully to everything he says on the tax structure in relation to manufacturing and service industries.

Mr Gordon Wilson (Dundee East, SNP): From 1977, when the last Labour government conducted a review of regional policy, Scotland's share of regional aid has declined by 40 per cent in real terms. Although he has not yet come to any specific decisions there must be considerable worry that underneath that cloak we will lose out in Scotland.

Could he give a categorical reply to assure the Scottish people that under circumstances will their share of regional aid be reduced further?

Mr Tebbit: I could not possibly give an undertaking that anybody's share of aid would not decline further. It depends upon the economic circumstances of that region. Scotland has benefited enormously from the oil industry in recent years which has eased its problems relative to those of many other parts of the country.

Sir Hector Mearns (Dumfries, C): Has he taken into account the relationship between European aid grant and regional policy? In the case of my constituency, probably the most affected in the United Kingdom, grants for forestry infrastructure are not available because it is not an assisted area. Is this really logical?

Mr Tebbit: The logic of the policy is that European regional aid is available in the areas designated as assisted areas in this country. That seems to have a certain logic to me and it probably will, when he reflects upon it, to him.

Mr Robert Sheldon (Ashton-under-Lyne, Lab): In Tameside a quarter of manufacturing jobs were lost in the first two years of the last administration. I hope he will consider the problems of manufacturing industry when he makes a final decision.

Mr Tebbit: Yes, but in all probability there is a long-term trend towards a reduction of jobs in

Concessionary travel was an important matter, especially for the million pensioners who benefited from the present concessionary fare scheme.

In the GLCs' representative pamphlets "Kill the Bill" they stated: "If the Transport Bill becomes law your free pass is at risk." That was not true. The Bill simply re-enacted existing powers to deliver concessionary fare scheme. The GLC would be responsible for it until the council was abolished.

Mr Harry Greenaway (Ealing North, C) said it was essential the pass continued. Will Mr Ridley (he asked) say he will, if necessary, seek powers to ensure these passes do continue? (Labour cheers.)

Mr Ridley: I agree about the importance of the passes. I am not prepared to say that it would be right for the Government to propose legislation to the House to take away what is properly a function of local government.

The London Boroughs Association had already agreed in principle to work out the details of a scheme and to put forward proposals. His simple message to old age pensioners was "Don't be frightened by the GLC".

On December 7 he had informed the GLC that their projected expenditure level for revenue support to LT for 1984-85 would be £13.5m, the same as for 1983-84. That did not make necessary any substantial increases in fares in 1984-85 provided that nothing was done to add further to costs or to block and squander the savings which the Executive expected to achieve in 1983-84.

In the longer-term, the level of fares would reflect the degree of success LRT had in cutting costs and improving efficiency. He said no reason why fares and charges should continue to outstrip the increase in prices generally, given the scope there was in LRT for substantial cost savings.

MEPs have no right to talk about Ulster

PM's QUESTIONS

The European Assembly has no business dealing with the political affairs of a member state, Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said during questions in the Commons.

Mr David Steel, the Liberal Leader, had invited her to give a general welcome to the report to the European Parliament this (Tuesday) morning by Mr Niels Hagerup, a Danish Liberal MEP, on Northern Ireland.

Mr Steel asked the Prime Minister particularly to pursue the suggestion, which the Government had been considering, of a parliamentary forum in which MPs, members of the Northern Ireland Assembly and the Irish Dail would discuss the problems of Northern Ireland.

Mrs Thatcher: I take the view that the European Assembly has no business to consider the political affairs of a member state. That is a view we adhere to and a view to which every state of the European Community must continue to adhere.

Anglo-Irish policy is a matter for the Parliaments concerned, and not for the Community.

Astronaut rumour denied

Mrs Thatcher denied reports that the British Government plans to send an astronaut into space, but amid laughter and counter suggestions from Labour MPs, she added that there were some Opposition MPs on front and back benches that she would not mind sending.

Ministries still resisting efficiency drive

By Peter Hennessy

Continuing resistance in parts of Whitehall to Mrs Thatcher's efficiency drive is revealed today by Mr Ian Beesly, the under-secretary who heads the Prime Minister's Efficiency Unit.

In an article published by the Royal Institute of Public Administration on the Rayner scrutinies, the investigation technique pioneered by Lord Rayner, of Marks and Spencer, the Prime Minister's first efficiency adviser, Mr Beesly writes: "Some departments have progressed far, others are scarcely past the starting line."

"If the (efficiency) initiative is to survive it must push to get recommendations delivered without losing its bite. Precise credibility barrier is establishing that good management is not optional."

Mr Beesly's article is the first public statement from the unit of Lord Rayner's progress since he was succeeded by Sir Robin Ibbes, an executive director of ICI and former head of the Central Policy Review Staff.

The unit declined this week to name laggard departments. But Whitehall's unofficial ratings of ministries enthused by

the Rayner "rhythm" would put the Department of the Environment, the Department of Health and Social Security, the Ministry of Defence and the Inland Revenue in the upper brackets. The lower bracket would include the Department of Education and Science, the Lord Chancellor's Department, the Law Officers' Department and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Mr Beesly judges the "unswerving" personal support of the Prime Minister for Rayner scrutinies to have been crucial. He foresees the need for "high-profile leadership" from both ministers and top civil servants "for a good number of years yet."

Even a 1 per cent saving in one year on the cost of administration alone is significant in releasing resources for new policies. "It would more than pay for three new 450-bed hospitals and their running for a year."

Policy Analysis and Evaluation in British Government, edited by Andrew Gray and Bill Jenkins (RIPA, 3 Birdcage Walk, London SW1, £6.75).



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Britain's



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Decisions...decisions.

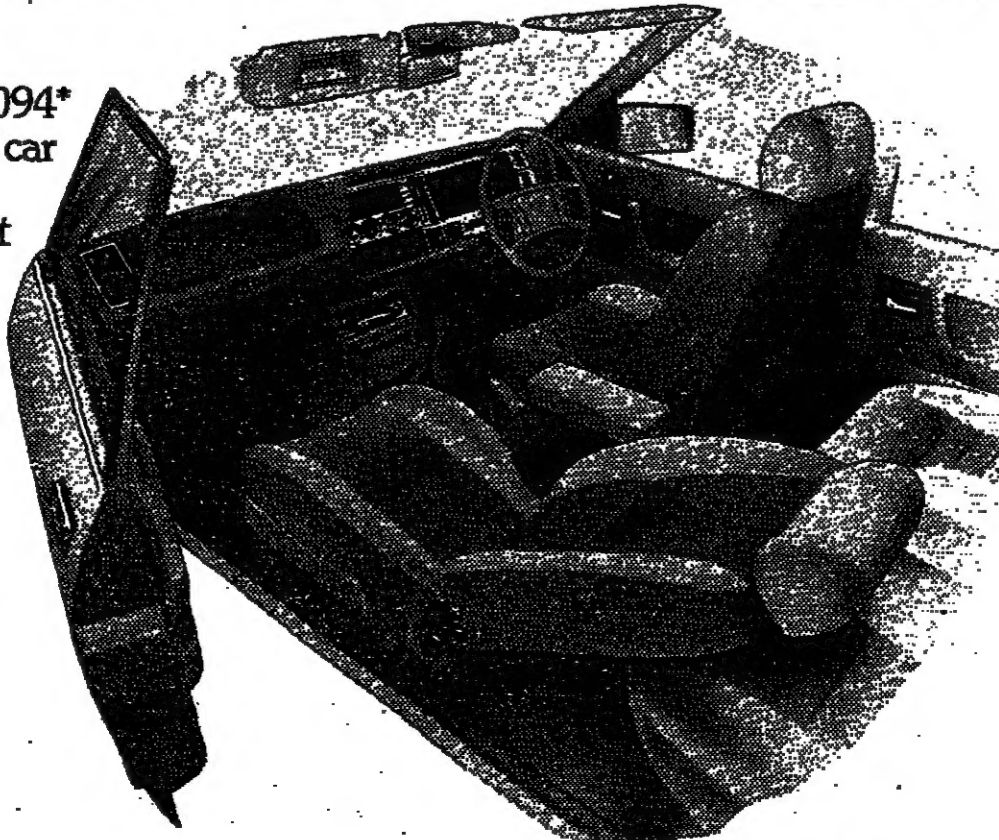
A dilemma isn't it?
On the one hand, you could spend just £7,094* on the Granada L, a superbly well engineered car with 100 mph plus performance, a 5-speed gearbox, power steering and a splendidly quiet and comfortable ride.

Or, on the other hand, you could invest £7,554* in the new Granada LX, a car which offers you all the same engineering refinement, but which is even more luxurious. (These are the extra features you get on the right)

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*Maximum prices excluding delivery and number plates. Granada L illustrated is a 2.0 L saloon with optional black paint at extra cost. Granada LX illustrated is a 2.0 LX saloon.



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- * Ammeter
- * Illuminated vanity mirror
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- * Back seat reading lights (saloons only)

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Palestinians and Arab nationals barred from leaving

Kuwait cracks down after wave of bombs

Kuwait (Reuters, AFP) - Kuwait strengthened its internal security yesterday after the series of bomb blasts which killed at least four people and injured more than 60.

Key government buildings were under heavy guard and there was increased protection around the American, French, British, and Italian embassies, the four countries providing troops for the multinational peacekeeping force in Lebanon. Road blocks were set up outside the capital.

The Kuwaiti Parliament condemned the bombings on Monday as criminal. During the 90-minute wave of attacks, the US and French embassies, a Kuwaiti government office, the airport, and a big industrial complex were all hit.

Palestinians, who form nearly a quarter of Kuwait's population, and nationals of several Middle East countries have been barred temporarily from leaving the country.

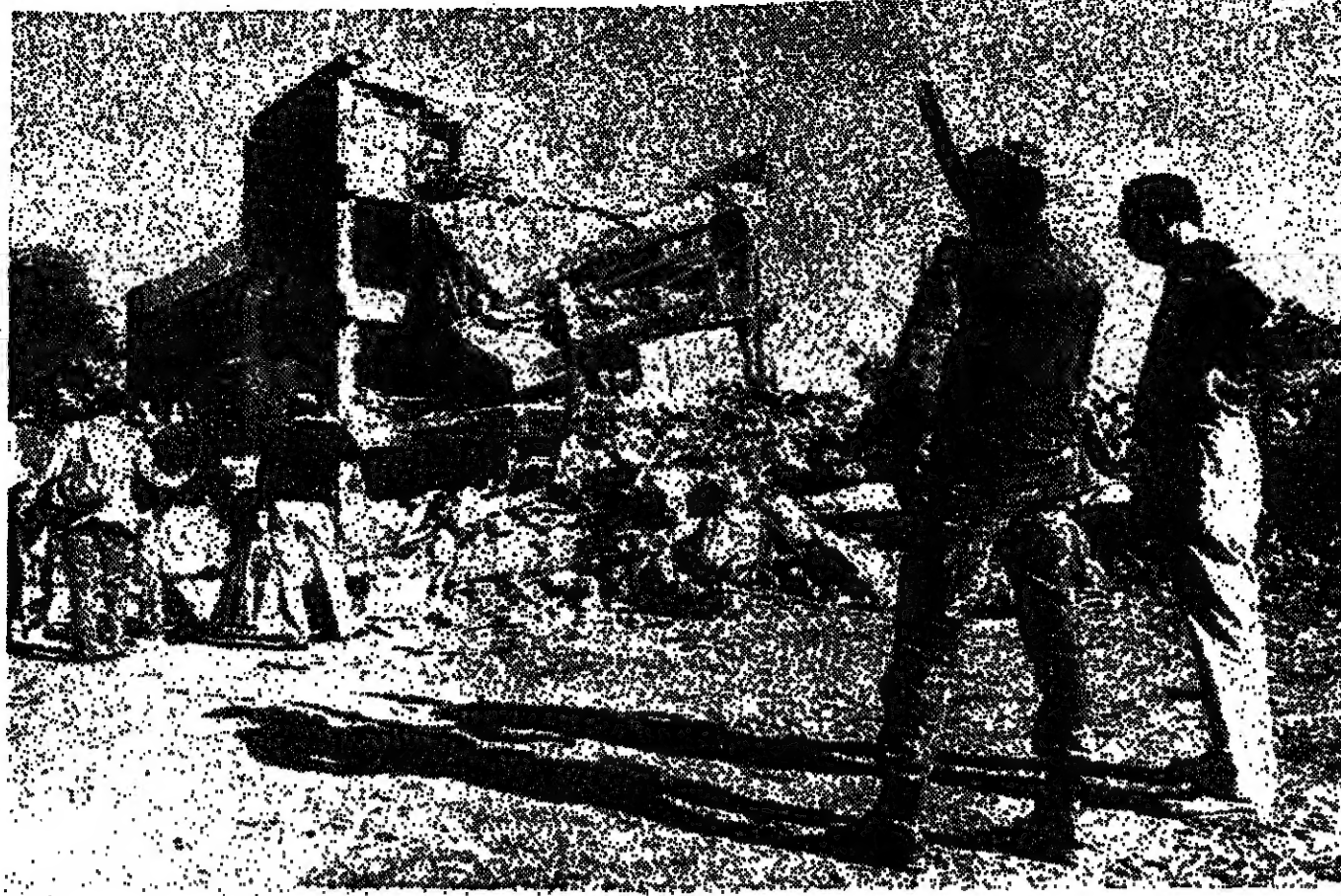
Several suspects have been arrested. Sources said police had detained an employee of a Kuwaiti public company who owned the lorry used in the attack on the US embassy as well as several of the booby-trapped cars used against other targets.

An Interior Ministry official said further arrests could be expected.

The US embassy, where three people died and more than 30 were injured, was closed for business yesterday. Marines in full combat gear and flak jackets were seen on guard inside the compound.

Mr David Good, a spokesman for the embassy, said three local employees were killed when a lorry loaded with gas cylinders and explosives smashed through the metal main gate, swerved to the left into a car park and devastated the three-storey administration building.

Mr Good said witnesses had reported that there had been one man in the suicide lorry, senior government official said.



On alert: A Marine standing guard outside the US embassy in Kuwait after the fatal bomb blast

yesterday that the driver, whose nationality was not known, had died in the explosion though earlier reports said he had survived.

Mr Good, who was in his office when the blast occurred, said: "I was typing out a cable and heard not a very loud thump, which I surmised afterwards was the truck hitting the gate."

"This was followed about two seconds later by a tremendous sharp deafening bang and a kind of enveloping pressure which went all around my body and throughout the room."

"Broken glass came flying in

through my window and hit the opposite wall. Fortunately I was sitting just beneath the window which was about 5ft above my head. The glass went straight across and hit the other wall and I only had some glass and some debris and dust falling on my head."

A Muslim extremist group, Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for the attacks. Islamic Jihad also claimed responsibility for the recent attacks on the US Embassy and American of enveloping pressure which went all around my body and throughout the room.

"Broken glass came flying in

shocked other Gulf states, which are already jittery over the course of the three-year war between Iran and Iraq.

● LISBON If the terrorists attacked the American and French embassies and the installations in Kuwait could be clearly identified, then steps could be taken in retaliation, Mr George Schultz, the American Secretary of State, said in Lisbon yesterday (Martha de la Cal writes).

Mr Schultz said that terrorism was a serious international problem and that steps did need to be taken, but he did not want to comment on what action

might be taken by the United States.

What happened in Kuwait was "a great tragedy", he said adding that the bomb attacks were "aimed at the United States, France the Government of Kuwait and at the general concept of law and order".

● DAMASCUS: Thousands of Syrians joined a government-sponsored rally against the United States and Israel yesterday but the authorities barred the marchers from American and Israeli embassies.

Syrian security guards armed with assault rifles closed roads leading to the two embassies.

Scottish au pair in court clash with Mauritian governess

From Peter Nichols, Livorno

Witchcraft and the paranormal took a back seat at the trial here yesterday of the Scottish au pair girl Carol Compton.

Miss Compton, aged 21, has been held in prison awaiting trial since August, 1982, on charges of being responsible for five fires of which one was intended to kill a three-year-old child in her care.

Yesterday she took part in a dramatic confrontation with Miss Nicole Annaswamy, a striking woman from Mauritius who was employed in the same household as Miss Compton in July, 1982, in the northern Italian town of Ortesel.

Miss Annaswamy, elegantly dressed in red leather trousers, high heeled boots, a leather jacket and silk shawl gave an account of the first five fires. It conflicted on several points with Miss Compton's versions.

Miss Annaswamy spoke in fairly fluent Italian. Her remarks were translated for Miss Compton who dismissed them with the angry comment: "Everything, almost everything is lies."

Miss Annaswamy, according to her testimony, was returning from the centre of Ortesel on July 11, 1982, to the house and saw smoke coming from a bedroom window while Miss Compton was outside with the child.

Miss Compton has claimed that all three were together when the fire first started and that Miss Annaswamy had returned home because she wanted to see a World Cup match on television.

Miss Annaswamy denied interest in the match and added that when Signor Mario Ricci, the child's grandfather went to the door of his bedroom Miss Compton said: "Don't open". He did and found a fire which

has started on his bed.

This fire damaged the house and the Ricci family moved with Miss Compton to a flat close by. Two days later a small fire occurred in a rubbish bin in the kitchen. After another two days a more serious fire damaged another bedroom and Miss Compton was sent back to Rome. No charges were brought against her.

She found work with another family and went with them to Elba. The day after they arrived a fire broke out on a bed. Two days later another fire occurred, this time in the bedroom of the three-year-old girl who was in Carol Compton's charge. For this last fire she was accused of attempted murder. She denies all the charges.

Miss Compton yesterday could be seen reacting with some irritation as her first employer, Signora Emanuela Ricci, who had taken her to Ortesel, told the court: "I was very disappointed in this girl." (She spoke the word "disappointed" in English, presumably to get her point straight home to the accused.)

"I discovered letters which talked badly of me and my child. She was a hypocrite. I do not want to hurt the girl with my testimony."

Her evidence nevertheless went a long way towards removing the paranormal from the trial. In earlier testimony she had said that her maid in Rome spoke of a vase that had inexplicably fallen to the floor in Carol's presence as well as a picture of the Madonna, but the objects could, she said yesterday, have been knocked down quite naturally.

The hearing continues today. The verdict is expected by the end of the week.

Romanians in daring flight to West

Vienna - Twenty Romanians were seeking political asylum in Austria after a daring escape at the weekend which fooled Romanian, Hungarian and Austrian border guards (Richard Bassett writes).

The Romanians, including six children, hid themselves under boxes of ball bearings in a large container lorry and remained undetected for 48 hours in freezing temperatures until they reached Vienna late on Saturday.

A somewhat embarrassed spokesman for the Austrian police announced their presence yesterday saying that their arrival had been kept a secret while a full inquiry was launched into how they had not been discovered at the Austrian frontier.

The Romanians exhausted after their two days of concealment have now been transferred to the Traiskirchen refugee camp south of Vienna.

Iran caps wells to save Gulf

Gland, Switzerland (AP) - Iran has capped all but six of its offshore oil wells to prevent damage from Iraqi missiles, the World Wildlife Fund said here, quoting unnamed industry sources. The wells would need redrilling to get back into production once the war ended.

Iran has capped the wells, 75 in the Nowruz field and all those in the Ardesheh near by, to avoid further oil spillage into the Gulf if missiles hit them, the fund said.

Comoros plot

Perth (AFP) - Three Australians allegedly involved in a plot to stage a commando-style raid to overthrow the Government of Comoros - Walter John Pilgrim, 54, Edward Arthur Greengrove, 42, and Frederick John Patrick, 46, all of Armadale, Western Australia - were sent for trial by magistrates here.

Off the air

Moscow (AFP) - Vladimir Danchev, the Soviet radio commentator dismissed in May after several times referring to the "Soviet occupation" of Afghanistan and to the mujahidin's "struggle against the Soviet invader" is back at work at Radio Moscow, according to reliable Soviet sources. But he is not broadcasting.

Rio's loss

Rio de Janeiro (AFP) - Most of Rio's magnificent white sand beaches are so badly hit by pollution that they can no longer be used for swimming or sunbathing. Last year the Botafogo and Flamengo beaches were ruled unfit. Sewage has now drifted on to the Leblon and Ipanema.

Cabbage Patch

San Francisco (AFP) - Mr Martin Brandon, who was adopted as a child, filed a \$100m action against the manufacturers of "cabbage patch" dolls, claiming they have an extremely negative effect on adopted children who wonder if they too were born in cabbage patches.

Birthday killer

Bonn - The Hamburg public prosecutor has charged 72-year-old Arnold Strippel, a former SS lieutenant, with hanging 40 Jews on Hitler's birthday 38 years ago. Twenty were children.

On your bike

Peking (Reuters) - Wang Qingshun, 27-year-old Peking economics graduate assigned to work in Tibet, cycled there, all 6,200 miles of it, the New China news agency reported. It took him 82 days.

Inside story

Jakarta (Reuters) - Fishermen at Labuan Lombok in eastern Indonesia, slicing up a 9ft shark they had netted, discovered a human skeleton inside.

Safety of Britons will be pressed on Gemayel

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Mrs Margaret Thatcher will be putting President Amin Gemayel of Lebanon under pressure to provide evidence of progress towards political reconciliation in his divided country when they meet in Downing Street today.

The Government is mindful of growing concern about the safety of the 100 or so troops who make up Britain's contribution to the multinational peacekeeping force in Beirut.

The call for an imminent withdrawal of the contingent is far from irresistible and observers believe that the force, now consisting of troops from the 16th/5th Lancashire, is less likely than its French and American counterparts to be targeted by Islamic terrorists.

But the Prime Minister and Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, who will hold talks with the Lebanese President, want to make it clear that the British contingent is not meant to remain for ever.

President Gemayel who will also see the Queen during his

48-hour stay, arrived last night amid tight security.

He comes at the Government's invitation at a crucial point in the history of his country - whose warring factions mandated his after last month's reconciliation talks in Geneva - to tour Western capitals in an attempt to secure the withdrawal of foreign troops from Lebanon.

But he has also said that he wants to buy British aircraft to supplement the eight elderly Hunters still flying with the Lebanese Air Force.

The multinational force is needed to prop up the authority of the Beirut Government until its own emergent forces are strong enough to enforce law and order.

But growing scepticism on the Labour benches over the role and usefulness of the force - and the dangers to which it is exposed - lies behind meetings which President Gemayel will also have with Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, and Mr Denis Healey, shadow Foreign Secretary.

Light across the Jordan river

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Amidst the current mood of pessimism gripping the Middle East, there have been a number so small but significant pointers recently towards a possible avenue for future Israeli-Arab dialogue.

The latest is a strong indication that the Government of Mr Yitzhak Shamir may agree to permit any moderate West Bank Palestinians appointed next year to the Jordanian National Assembly to cross the Allenby bridge to take their seats in Amman.

Although no Cabinet decision has yet been taken, senior advisers to Mr Shamir are sympathetic to the idea of permitting pro-Jordanian West Bankers to attend the Parliament if, and when the summons was issued from Amman.

Copies of pro-Jordanian petitions are also being circulated in moderate Arab circles in the main cities. At a later stage they will be circulated among the general public for signature after they have received the formal approval of the Jordanian authorities.

Other pointers have been the unprecedented statements of

Palestinians. "It also makes a mockery out of the EEC's Venice Declaration", he added.

When recalled, the Parliament can nominate new West Bank delegates to replace those who died since it last sat before the 1967 war. There is speculation that such a delegation could form the nucleus of a future Palestinian state which would then be in a position to join talks with Israel alongside King Hussein.

Already the King's announcement has caused a flurry of behind-the-scenes activity in the West Bank, including consultations among pro-Jordanian elements as to whom would be endorsed for the Parliament if, and when the summons was issued from Amman.

One official told me that the King's plan to recall the assembly - which consists of 30 members from each bank of the Jordan - in effect nullified the 1974 Rabat summit declaring the PLO "the sole and legitimate" representative of the

unprecedented statements of

condemnation of last week's PLO bus bomb in Jerusalem issued by five radical Palestinian leaders from the West Bank and separately, by prominent Arabs from the occupied Gaza Strip.

The West Bank statement was signed, among others, by two deposed mayors previously closely associated with the PLO, Mr Karim Khalaf of Ramallah and Mr Mustapha Natche of Hebron. "Violence against civilians, carried out by either side, is counterproductive to a just solution to the Israeli-Palestinian problem", it concluded.

The statement was hailed by Mr Shamir as "a positive trend" and by the opposition Labour Party as a sign of a possible new readiness on behalf of the West Bank Arabs for coexistence with Israel. Less radical leaders such as Mr Elias Frej, the elected mayor of Bethlehem have been pressing this point.

Less well publicized was a similar condemnation by Gaza leaders including the Mayor of Khan Younis, one of the largest towns under occupation there and leaders of several Palestinian refugee camps.

Arms race futile, say scientists

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

Soviet block and Western scientists meeting together at the Pugwash Conference here declared yesterday that both sides already had more than enough nuclear weapons to serve any valid purpose.

"The key fact is that nuclear weapons have no useful military function other than to deter others from using theirs, and for this purpose both sides already possess more than enough," the committee's statement said. "It follows from this that pursuit of numerical parity in every sub-category of nuclear weaponry - a pursuit which negotiations often have encouraged and perpetuated - is neither necessary nor desirable."

The committee of about 40 scientists - eight from the Soviet block and including a Russian General on active service - regarded the recently adjourned Start negotiations on strategic missiles as having collapsed as completely as the INF talks.

It described tension between the superpowers as "probably unequalled since the Cuban missile crisis".



Maternal vote: Herr Brandt and Fraulein Seebacher, who married last Friday photographed voting together at the West German general election last June

Brandt remarries in secret

From Our Correspondent, Bonn

Herr Willy Brandt, the former West German Chancellor, who will be 70 on Sunday, has secretly married his 37-year-old former assistant, it was disclosed yesterday.

The Social Democrat chairman who was forced to resign as Chancellor in 1974 over a scandal, married Fraulein Brigitte Seebacher in an evening civil ceremony in the town hall of Unkel, a small wine town on the Rhine near Bonn, last Friday.

The after-hours ceremony was performed by the conservative Christian Democrat mayor, Herr Hans Hafene, who agreed to the unusual timing at Herr Brandt's express request "to preserve secrecy at least over the weekend". It was the former Chancellor's third marriage.

The newlyweds have lived together in Unkel since early 1979 when Herr Brandt and his second Norwegian wife, Ryt, separated after 31 years of marriage.

suspicion of abusing his priestly status. Security police later searched the priest's apartment and found a "large number of illegal objects that a priest should not have in his possession," he said. The police therefore made use of their right to hold him without charge for 48 hours before deciding whether to arrest him formally.

Officials refused to say whether the "illegal objects" were underground documents. Cardinal Josef Glemp, the Primate of Poland, has been informed of the detention which is sure to become a cause

celebre for the Solidarity underground. Both the Government and the church leadership have repeatedly denied that there are serious strains in their relationship. However, church advisers admit privately that the level of church-state cooperation has reached a plateau, that negotiations on a church fund to help private farmers were moving forward too slowly and that the Government is not averse to striking tough poses towards radical priests, like Father Popieluszko.

Neighbouring communist countries, such as Czechoslova-

lia, and hardline Marxists within the country have been sharply critical that Poland is allowing the Catholic Church to act as a springboard for opposition and anti-communist activities.

At the change of the afternoon factory shifts yesterday, it appeared that the most workers had decided to mark the anniversary of martial law quietly.

Riot police units were deployed around some of the key industrial troublespots, such as the Ursus tractor factory outside Warsaw, but the main alert was expected after nightfall

Democracy plea to Chile by 15-nation rally

Santiago (Reuters) - Christian Democratic leaders from 15 countries sponsored a rally here and called on Chilean military rulers to move towards democracy.

Señor Andrés Zaldívar, the Chilean politician who recently returned from exile and who is president of the Christian Democratic International, told the meeting of 5,000 people sponsored by CDI that military governments in Latin America had been uniformly disastrous.

"At this moment, Argentina is emerging into democracy and we salute it with joy. Tomorrow, it will be Uruguay and Brazil and why not Chile?", Señor Zaldívar said.

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Managua rejects talks with rebels but makes peace offering

Managua (NYT) - Señor Humberto Ortega Savaderra, the Defence Minister, says Sandinista forces defeated a guerrilla campaign last month aimed at seizing a part of Nicaraguan territory and setting up a provisional government there.

In an interview here, Señor Ortega rejected recent suggestions that his Government negotiate with leaders of the guerrilla forces, but he said the Sandinistas were seeking the "reconciliation of the great Nicaraguan family" through talks with the domestic opposition.

He also said Nicaragua wanted to reach an understanding for coexistence with Washington.

"The United States should accept us as we are and not try to impose conditions," Señor Ortega said. "In this relationship, we will respect the reality represented by the United States."

Señor Ortega, aged 36, is a senior member of the nine-man Sandinista national directorate that holds power in Nicaragua. He portrayed rebel bands as scattered and broken up but predicted they would start a new wave of attacks after the winter rains in the highlands of Costa Rica and especially in Honduras.

He said the appearance of a rebel air force had introduced a new element into the hostilities. Its use had been curtailed recently. Four of the ancient rebel planes had been shot down and use of the planes was embarrassing to the US "because it made the involvement of the CIA so obvious".

Guerrillas fighting to overthrow the Sandinistas have received millions in covert aid from the US. According to Señor Ortega, anti-government rebels based in Honduras, including groups of disaffected Miskito Indians, planned to seize an area near the Atlantic coast town of Puerto Cabezas last month in coordination with other rebel detachments based near the Costa Rican border.

"They were unable to achieve their goal because of our defensive strength, in this case the strength of the territorial militia, which held off the aggressors in many encounters in that part of the country," Señor Ortega said.

Goethe image under attack

From Michael Binyon Bonn

When the Colombo branch of the Goethe Institute, West Germany's equivalent of the British Council, planned a showing of a homosexual film recently, the German Ambassador stepped in and vetoed the performance.

Wolfgang Petersen's television film of a love affair between two men was one of nine films sent out by the institute's Munich headquarters for use in promoting German culture in South-East Asia, but the Sri Lanka censor forbade its public showing.

In normal circumstances the ambassador's veto would have raised few questions: according to the 1976 agreement between the Goethe Institute and the Foreign Ministry, Bonn's diplomats have the final say over anything with political implications. The showing of a censored film might fall into that category.

But at the moment the institute's defenders are on their guard against any further encroachments on their hard-won independence. For in recent months conservative politicians, especially in Bavaria, have mounted a concerted attack on the respected quasi-independent cultural organisation, accusing it of portraying an unflattering image of West Germany and not responding to the changed political climate.

The dispute came to a head last month during Chancellor Helmut Kohl's visit to Japan. While opening one of the institute's new branches in Kyoto, he enunciated in a speech the liberal principles on which it would operate. It was to represent the federal republic as it really was: a free democracy based on the free exchange of ideas and opinions.

Mining deal threatens Amazonians

Brasilia (AFP) - About 25,000 Amazonian Indians are threatened by a government decision which allows private companies to enter Indian territories to prospect for gold, diamonds and other minerals.

The presidential decree is being challenged by Senator Mario Juruna, Brazil's only Indian deputy, as unconstitutional. He described it as one more initiative to do away with the Indians.

A government spokesman recently defended the decision. "The non-exploitation of natural resources, which are vital to national security and to the development process, cannot be justified by the single fact that these resources are located in indigenous lands."

The Government says it is acting in the best interests of the Indians by pledging to mechanize mining as much as possible to reduce the intrusion of outsiders and to supervise the private companies.

Uruguay paper silenced

Montevideo (Reuters) - Uruguay's military Government has shut down one of the country's leading newspapers for three days for publishing an interview with an exiled politician.

El Dia is the second publication to be silenced in less than a week for publishing stories on Senator Wilson Ferreira, an exiled leader of the opposition Blanco Party.

President Gregorio Alvarez said in a statement that the *El Dia* interview with Señor Ferreira, published on Sunday, violated a law banning news reports on people deprived of political rights.

The military government closed down *Somos Idea* magazine, the journal of the Blanco Party, for 12 weeks for carrying a cover picture of Señor Ferreira. Since 1981 the Government has closed 18 news publications, four of them permanently.

Dress rehearsal for next year's election

From Nicholas Ashford Washington

Two of the most influential US politicians, sons of immigrants who followed different political tracks, have provided Americans with a clear picture of the choices which face them in next year's presidential election campaign.

In a debate in Washington last week, Mr Mario Cuomo of New York and Mr George Deukmejian of California, the two most popular and powerful states, showed clearly that, despite their similar backgrounds, they represent the growing split between the left and right in American politics.

Both are native New Yorkers, classmates at law school in the 1950s. Both confounded pollsters during gubernatorial races last year by pulling off upset victories and both are being mentioned as likely candidates in the 1988 presidential election.

But there the comparison ends. Mr Cuomo, born of Italian parents, is an advocate of the "new deal" school of liberalism that has been at the heart of the Democratic Party for the past 50 years. "Mario Cuomo can make liberalism again," said Mr Ben Wattenberg, co-editor of *Public Opinion* magazine, who chaired last week's debate.

Mr Deukmejian, who is of Armenian stock, is a classic example of the new Republican conservatives who have risen to



Right and left: Mr Deukmejian (left) and Mr Cuomo (right)

prominence since President Reagan took office. "Deukmejian is so conservative he still believes in arithmetic," Mr Wattenberg said.

There was a political edge to his joke. Whereas Mr Reagan failed to balance the budget when he was Governor of California, Mr Deukmejian succeeded in doing so without raising taxes, simply by slashing spending by \$1,500m (£1,030m). Referring to the \$200,000m federal deficit, Mr Wattenberg said: "Some conservatives are now saying 'Let Reagan be Deukmejian'."

The Cuomo-Deukmejian debate, which formed part of a public policy week organized by the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative Washington think-tank, was essentially a dress rehearsal for the real battle in the presidential elections next year.

Mr Deukmejian quickly put his finger on what the Democrats are up against as they

THE ARTS

Almost a generation after its birth, Ron Moody (right) tonight at the Aldwych returns to *Oliver!*, the musical that made his name: interview by Sheridan Morley

Archetype of the genuine English musical classic

"I'm a lonely man; I never married, have no children. This seemed a great way to spend Christmas." Thus Ron Moody, explaining why after 23 years he is at the Aldwych to picking a pocket or two and reconsidering the situation in the musical that made his name - *Oliver!* - which previews at the Aldwych from tonight at the start of a five-week Christmas season. Not that this was set up as a conscious exercise in showbiz nostalgia. What happened was that the impresario Cameron Mackintosh, who also has *Abba-cadabra* and *Blondel and Cats and Song & Dance* and *Little Shop of Horrors* around London this Christmas and who started out a couple of decades ago as a stagehand on *Oliver!*, happened to have a tour of it going around the country with Roy Hudd and Jimmy Edwards. Most of that cast reckoned they would be through by Christmas, and accordingly booked themselves into pantomimes elsewhere: the *Aldwych* then fell vacant. *Oliver!* seemed about due for yet another Christmas return to London, and Mackintosh was short of a Fagin. What more natural than to go back to the first?

"He made me an offer that my agent said I couldn't refuse," says Moody. "Mind you, I'd refused a lot in the past. Originally they offered me a million dollars to do it in America, but in those days I was keen to work on other London musicals so I turned them down. They say Harrison started out there as a wages clerk when he was 16. 'I used to carry a bit of paper around to make me look official and with that I got on to all the sets in the days when there was still a lot of filming going on down there - all the old Alistair Sim, Will Pyle, George Formby comedies. Films still fascinate me more than anything else: concentration, pacing, it's all there.'"

But, after four years in the RAF, Moody decided that what he really wanted to be was a writer: "I was an instructor in

show they wanted a star like Sid James or Max Bygraves and for the film they wanted either Harrison or Peter Sellers, but eventually it came down to me both times and now I am back to it at the age of 59, which is probably about the age I should have been originally for Fagin."

"At first even I never wanted to do it. They told me there was this musical of *Oliver Twist* so I went to see the Alec Guinness film which I found so anti-Semitic as to be unbearable. But Bart is as Jewish as I am and we both felt an obligation to get Fagin away from a viciously racist stereotype and instead make him what he really is - a crazy old Father Christmas gone wrong. The curious thing about the show is that it can never really fail: I went to see the touring version and at first I was appalled by how broad it had got and how far away from our original, but then the kids come on and that marvelous Sean Kenny set comes to life and I thought he might like me to be in *Candide* in rehearsal he couldn't believe that I had no training of any kind, had never been to drama class, voice class, movement class, nothing. Just the LSE and then he says, 'So he began giving seminars in drama which lasted all through rehearsals and were fascinating: unfortunately the show wasn't, and we closed in a fortnight. It was supposed to have been a critical success but even the critics hated it. Still, Peter Coe, who's always been my great supporter, saw it and asked me to audition for Fagin. Lionel walked out of the audition because he said he wanted a star, but Coe persuaded him I could do it and the rest you know. Once I got over the anti-Semitism I knew there was something remarkable there: like Rappunzel and Svengali, Fagin is a mesmerist figure."

But Moody left the original run after the first year, largely to set up his own musical about Grimaldi which in the event took him five years and lost



him most of his savings: "We couldn't even give away free seats. I did minor revivals for about five different management, finally they brought in Waterhouse and Hall, it ran two weeks and people still blame me for not getting it right. Some things are better left unstated, but I got fascinated and that was that."

Since that original Fagin, Moody has done a lot of interesting and even distinguished work ranging from a Mel Brooks film (*The Twelve Chairs*) to a *Richard III* in Canada and an American television labor in terms of world fame and hard cash he has never done anything to live up to his filming of *Oliver!* two decades ago, but his has never been a career that anybody, least of all himself, meant to judge by money or fame. He lives modestly and alone in Southgate, writes intelligent and quickly unusual novels (the latest, published this autumn, is called *Very Very Slightly Imperfect* and is largely based on his own recent and catastrophic romantic and professional entanglements in the world of American television) and thinks a lot about not being pigeon-holed.

"I don't think a professional agent or theatre manager would say my career had gone as well as perhaps it should have after that first *Oliver!* success, but then again I was never really intending to have a career in the professional theatre in the first place. Considering that I set out to be a sociologist, I think I've really done quite well."

Discovering delight

Sinfonietta/Atherton Queen Elizabeth Hall

Three months ago the Royal Opera House gave us the coloured frontpiece in their magical production of *L'Enfant et les sortilèges*, now the pages of the Ravel/Varese Festival have begun to turn in earnest, but with quite the same liveliness and delight. The festival is continuing over the next eight weeks, and clearly, if Monday night's opening concert is anything to go by, no musical winter is going to be complete unless brightened by at least one visit.

I suppose one's expectation was that these concerts would have their most remarkable discoveries in the music of Varese, born a hundred years ago into a world wholly unprepared for music of such violent beauty; it is so still, which is why Varese continues to shock on the rare occasions his music is heard. This first concert, however, suggested we are going to be learning just as much about Ravel, if not more.

Partly this was a matter of programming. Varese was represented by his two weakest scores - by, indeed, the only two weak scores in his output. In *Offrandes* he was still finding his feet, or rather cutting loose from his Debussian past, while at the same time succumbing to an unfortunate taste for bathetic specimens of surrealist incantation. *Nocturnal* comes from the other end of his career, when he had abandoned hope

Concerts

Sinfonietta/Atherton Queen Elizabeth Hall

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Television

Sensational kind of humanity

When Thomas Kenally wrote a novel about the subject of last night's Schindler (Thames) there was some controversy over its status as either fact or fiction. The same question necessarily arises with television documentaries (especially, one might add, when they are narrated by Dirk Bogarde, who would make the Scriptures sound faintly suspect); although this one was described as the "true story", its mixture of archive material and contemporary reminiscence suggested the presence of art as well as reality.

The lineaments of Oskar Schindler's history, at least, are sufficiently well known. He was a minor German industrialist who, during the war years, in

Theatre

Mother Goose Palace, Watford

Before the Christmas deluge gets under way, spare a thought for this modest entertainment, a thoroughly workmanlike job in every department, from its cartwheeling dances to its well-sustained audience routines, adding up exactly to the promised traditional family pantomime.

If that description raises a yawn, you have reckoned without Peter Johns, veteran panto author and dame, whose idea of a traditional show by no means excludes what lies outside the Palace Theatre.

As a panto theme, *Mother Goose* is almost as free as *Old King Cole*, and Mr Johns has invented most of his story from scratch. He may bring on a demon king and a good fairy, turn out cross-talk for the squire and the village idiot, and go to town on an underwater ballet and a transformation scene. But his villain (David Gant) is a demon of discontent who tries to seduce the dame into buying furniture on the never-never, and who persuades the squire to drive a motorway from the idyllic cardboard landscape straight through Mother Goose's cottage.

When the search party arrive (by yellow submarine) to rescue the kidnapped Golden Goose, Mr Gant is waiting for them with a computer programmed to indoctrinate them with advertising jingles. It is a warning that would strike home anywhere, but particularly among the ring roads and shopping precincts of what is left of Watford.

Mr Johns plays a robust dame, well able to coast strong men from the house to flap a basket full of knickers in a laundry chorus. Stephen Bent makes firm friends with the audience as his idiot son, and Cheryl Pay offers an amazingly long-legged principal boy. Bob Carlton's production is handsomely dressed. Irving Wardle

Paul Griffiths

outer movements was sapped by musical lines whose beginnings and endings were left very much to their own devices.

The rather skittish rhythmic life that resulted seemed to set Mr Vasary on edge too, for he ran away with his opening, smudged ornaments and scale-passages, and left the centre of the work as anonymous in reticence as the orchestra had been in assertion.

Dvorak ended the evening, and his Eighth Symphony at least gave the orchestra a blood transfusion. The trumpets and horns had the time of their lives; the Scherzo, deaf to any sense of cross-metre, seemed nearer Vienna than Bohemia; and the finale had all the colour and vitality of a rather clumsily keyed fairground Gavioli.

Hilary Finch

Salvatore Accardo tonight performs what is thought to be an unique combination of roles within a single evening, in a Mozart concert at the Festival Hall. He not only directs the Chamber Orchestra of Europe but is also violin soloist in the "Hafner" Serenade and makes his London debut as viola soloist in the Sinfonia Concertante.

RPO/Weller

Festival Hall

There is no reason why short, dark days should necessarily produce long, pale concerts, but it does happen, and Monday night at the Festival Hall was a case in point.

The popular programme of Mozart and Dvorak had drawn a sizeable audience of all ages, and children and grandparents alike in their Sunday best were rewarded by playing that lacked, alas, any comparable sense of occasion.

Mozart's *Nachtmusik* had never seemed less *klutze*: what set out to be a pleasingly nonsense period of serenading ended up weary from the shallow breathing of its phrasing and the lacklustre tempi and dynamic shaping.

Next came Tamas Vasary with Mozart's K456 Piano Concerto in B flat. Walter Weller, the Royal Philharmonic's principal conductor, can pull out plenty of *fortes* when he wants to, particularly for example in the orchestral responses to the piano's delicate filigree variations in the slow "Hafner" Serenade and makes his London debut as viola soloist in the Sinfonia Concertante.

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THE JEWEL IN THE CROWN

9 January 1984

GRANADA TELEVISION

SPECTRUM

André Previn takes over as music director of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in 1985.

But he is a compulsive musician, and already he is at work with the RPO on a nine-hour series for television – the medium that brings to life his versatility

Four ages of a musician for all seasons

By Norman Lebrecht

It is entirely characteristic of André Previn that he should have started work as music director of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra almost two years ahead of his official installation in June 1985. Whatever else may have changed (and much has) in the four years since he ceased to be a fixture in London's musical firmament, Previn's enthusiasm and appetite for work remain insatiable.

For four months of each year he is committed to the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, whose music director he has been since 1976. The rest of the time he flits about guest-conducting the world's major orchestras in Berlin, Vienna, Amsterdam, London, Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia and New York. In addition he goes on chamber music tours with the principals of the Vienna Philharmonic, records two LPs every three months (he has contracts to fulfil with both EMI and Philips), composes and writes (his *Guide to Music* is published this month by Macmillan). He also makes television programmes and commercials. "I don't know how not to work so hard," he says flatly. "I'm crazy about my profession. When somebody offers me two weeks in Amsterdam or Boston, before I know what I've said, I've said 'yes'."

When his new wife, Heather, suggested a holiday in Bermuda, Previn's instinct was to respond: "Why Bermuda? There is no orchestra in the Caribbean."

Of late Previn has been guiding his new orchestra through a nine-hour television examination of the symphony, a series scheduled for 1984. While members of the RPO filter into the studio, Previn sits staidly in a lair-like BBC dressing room, as tense as if this were his TV debut. He can scarcely bring himself to eat or drink before the arduous filming session.

In conversation he is dull, evasive, and distracted, becoming animated only when discussing intricacies of make-up and costume for the show. Yet the flickering of a camera signal will transform this terse, morose conductor, brusque to the point of incivility, into the familiar living-room fount of bonhomie, wit and musical

wisdom. Associates speak wonderingly of his ability to switch moods instantaneously.

On television, his versatility is unique among musicians, surpassing the raw passion of Bernstein's pioneering programmes with a sophisticated array of devices calculated to lure the least musical of viewers. Previn is at home on television, more so perhaps than anywhere else.

He is German by birth, American by citizenship, part-British by domicile. He claims England as his home, established during 11 years with the London Symphony Orchestra and reinforced by his new three-year arrangement with the RPO. He has kept the house in Surrey following his divorce from Mia Farrow and returns there regularly from his global peregrinations. "He also had the common sense," says Heather Previn dryly, "to take an English wife and an English secretary." The arrival of an English child is expected shortly.

The Previn who has set out to recapture a dominant position in musical London is no longer the glitzy flip-flop who galvanized it in the early 1970s. Previn is on the threshold of his fourth period.

The first, now almost a childish irrelevance, was the Hollywood era as jazz pianist, film composer and Oscar accumulator. The second saw his rise to musical respectability via Houston and the LSO.

IN THE third, his Pittsburgh leadership and Public Broadcasting Service programmes won him acceptance in the US. The fourth period, his re-entry into a now-troubled London music arena, could well determine the conclusive verdict of history on this meteoric performer. He is not unaware of the significance of that verdict.

At 54, Previn is beginning to show signs of age. There is a hunching in his shoulders, a thinning in his cheeks. He has been stricken by an arthritic complaint in one foot and let it be known he would call off the BBC television series rather than submit to the indignity of having to conduct from a stool. He has cancelled a



André Previn: 'I don't know how not to work so hard' (Photograph by Dmitri Kasterine)

number of concerts in December to have surgery on the offending foot and will be chair-bound for a month. "But the doctors say I'll be back playing tennis afterwards," he says cheerfully. Nonetheless the whizzkid has, inevitably, begun to slow down.

The third period, however, has also brought greater maturity as a conductor. His musical relationship with the Pittsburgh added administrative experience to his musical authority. As Music Director (at the LSO he was merely Principal Conductor), he is responsible for everything from hiring and firing players to programming the children's concert. He will undertake similar responsibilities at the RPO and, he believes, it is no coincidence that the LSO has swiftly upgraded Claudio Abbado's status to Music Director.

"When I came to work here in 1968," he reflects, "it was absolutely undeniable that London was the

greatest musical centre in the world. That position is much shakier now – for reasons of inflation, recession, the decline of audiences and the record industry. It used to be taken for granted that a good programme, or soloist, or conductor, would fill the Festival Hall. That is no longer the case."

Previn promises to spend a lot of time in the next year researching new programming possibilities for the RPO. He is unwilling so far to reveal any of his ideas, but maintains that the other London orchestras have reacted to the slump by becoming "wildly conservative". That is not a course he is likely to follow.

In Pittsburgh he has enjoyed considerable freedom with programming and is keen to emphasise his promotion of new music. "In any of the big cities of America, orchestral subscriptions are sold for the whole season and music directors can afford

to be adventurous. If I want to put on an evening of, say, Messiaen and Elliott Carter, there may be a lot of empty seats – but they have all been paid for."

He has also persisted with the advancement of British music that he began in London. It was Previn, more than any other, who restored Vaughan Williams and Walton to general circulation – and has given the US premiere of Tippett's *Triple Concerto*, as well as works by John McCabe, Oliver Knussen and Nicholas Maw. He has also, while on tour, given innumerable local premières of more familiar works.

One of the highlights of his career was to take Britten and Walton to Russia with the LSO in 1970. "They were about as friendly as Britten and Walton were going to be," he laughs, "but I was just pleased to be in the same room. Sir William was thrilled with the screaming ovation – about twenty minutes of it – that his *First Symphony* got in Moscow." Previn treasures a photograph of himself and Walton in full concert dress clutching cans of beer as Russian officials toasted them in vodka.

On the Soviet tour Previn established his own reputation as an outstanding interpreter of Russian music. In the meantime, however, since collaborating with Tom Stoppard on *Every Good Boy Deserves Favour*, a musical set in a Soviet psychiatric hospital, he is no longer welcome in the Soviet Union. An attempt last year to return with an American television network to cover the International Tchaikovsky Competition was discreetly but efficiently blocked. "It was just after the Barbican revival of *EGGBDF* opened in Vienna, he found himself unable to enter East Germany to record the Brahms Requiem in Dresden. "I had a very kind letter from the orchestra, saying how sorry they were."

His forthcoming compositions are less controversial. There is a long-promised piano concerto for Vladimir Ashkenazy which he expects to complete by next summer, and an orchestral piece commissioned by the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra for the 1985 Salzburg Festival.

Despite the pedigree of his clients, Previn makes no undue claims for himself, as composer or conductor. He is acutely aware of his own limitations and of market realities, refusing for example to consider the possibility of recording a Beethoven cycle, the conductor's ultimate accolade. "If someone goes into a record shop and asks for the *Eroica*, and he is then given a list of everyone since Nikisch who recorded it, why wouldn't he pick some gigantic interpretation? No, I never think of records as a vanity. I'd like them to have some validity and I'd like them to sell enough so that the company isn't sorry they were made." In fact his sales record is such that he has made more recordings than any but three or four other conductors in the history of the gramophone.

It would appear that the Beethoven cycle is one of numerous unfulfilled ambitions that Previn hints at but will not disclose. He insists, however, that he does not hanker after any other musical positions: Pittsburgh and the RPO will suffice until the late 1980s.

For a man who overextends himself so consistently, Previn has reduced his failure rate to a barely perceptible minimum. He no longer has to fly by the seat of his pants, learning music as he conducts it. The whizzkid is still whirling, but a purpose and direction may be discerned as he prepares his return to London.

moreover...
Miles Kington

Just half a juggler

Because this column does not deal much in wars, death or economic disaster, it is assumed by many to be humorous, an impression I try to foster as much as possible. One strange side-effect of this is that publishers occasionally send me humorous books, being quite unaware apparently that humorous columnists are traditionally morose people who hate dogs, people and work, in no particular order. But some of these books have been so life-enhancing that I have been driven to utter the occasional grunt or to think to myself that I ought to give them to someone for Christmas, and in gratitude I would like to mention their names so that they can stand up and take a bow.

The Meaning of Liff by Douglas Adams and John Lloyd (Pan £1.95) is a small dictionary giving fictitious meanings to place names, such as Widdicombe. "The sort of person who imitates Trimphonies," or Skellow: "Descriptive of the satisfaction experienced when looking at a really good dry-stone wall." This book has been widely criticised because Paul Jennings did the same thing years ago. Well, he didn't quite. Jennings was primarily interested in the sound and flavour of the place names; these two are much more interested in meanings for which there is no known word, and have amassed a great collection.

For instance, this is the first time I have seen the brilliant concept of "nervously indecisive about how safely to dispose of a dud lightbulb" expressed. The fact that they have matched it with a really good dry-stone wall is irrelevant. And what about "One of the rather unfunny newspaper clippings pinned to an office wall, the humour of which is supposed to derive from the fact that the headline contains a name similar to that of one of the occupants of the office"? It's a Snitter, actually, but a snitter by any other name would read as dully. NB: Some of the definitions are risqué. Not enough, but some.

The Oxford Book of Pseudonyms... No, I didn't laugh at that. *Sweet and Sour* is a marvellous mixed salad of comic verse from the kitchens of Christopher Logue (Bassford £6.95) which occasionally gets a bit too near poetry but most of the time is full of unknown wonderful tastes. It's only just exceeded by *The New Ewart Poems 1980-82* (Hutchinson £4.95) and I don't care if this was published in 1982 – I've only just got round to Gavin Ewart's superb verse, which I suppose is my own silly fault.

I would have nominated *The Rainy Day Biff* as comic drawing book of the year (Chris Garratt and Mike Kidd's switched-on postcards are maturing faster than Glen Baxter's stuff) if I hadn't encountered Hunt Emerson's *The Big Book of Everything* (Knockabout Comics £3.95). Emerson's style derives a bit from California, a bit from Krazy Kat, a bit from jazz... oh, from cars about influences, its just mind-blasting free-wheeling stuff which would make the man famous here if Britain showed the respect for humorous drawing that France, Germany or America does. Personally, I'm proud to be British along with a man like this.

Second From Last in the Sack Race by David Nobbs (Methuen £7.95) is the funniest and saddest novel of the year. From the Reginald Perrin workshop, it seems to dig deeper without losing a sense of humour. If I said it was the story of a northern childhood you would run screaming, so I won't. Put it this way: Turn to page 93 and read the first big paragraph starting "His reading North, Biggles Flies South, Biggles Flies East, Biggles Flies West, Biggles Flies In, Biggles Flies Out and Biggles Sweeps the Desert." They were written by Captain W. E. Johns, whose main virtue was that he was the greatest writer who ever lived... and I challenge you not to read more.

I see that the great *Ascent of Rum Doodle* is out again, which does for mountaineering what P. G. Wodehouse did for valets. But the book I have read most often is *Juggling for the Complete Kibitz*, by Cassidy and Rimbaux (Fontana £4.95) including three juggling balls which has left me half a juggler. It hasn't made me laugh, but has made me cry, groan, whoop, grunt and scream (as all three balls fell behind the bed just when I was getting the hang) which is more than *War and Peace* ever did.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 223)

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| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

ACROSS
1 Wealth (6)
4 Washbasin (6)
7 Abundant supply (4)
8 Other self (5,3)
9 Indulged (8)
12 Moisture drops (3)
15 Insuperiorly (6)
16 Grinder (6)
19 Urge on (3)
24 Bearing (8)
25 Chew away (4)
26 State of uproar (5)
27 Subtle point (6)

DOWN
1 Marmalade (4)
2 hindquarters (9)
3 Usual chaos (5)
4 Turning cutter (5)
5 Undergo change (4)
6 Railway track (5)
10 Coward and primrose hybrid (5)
11 Seed furrow (5)
12 Detention (9)
13 Caution (4)
14 Curious (4)
15 Dodge (5)
16 Kingdom (5)
21 Unsolved (5)
22 Seed appendage (4)
23 Askew (4)

SOLUTION TO No 222
ACROSS: 1 Mentor 5 Dibs 8 Taunt 9 Control
11 Euphoria 13 Atop 15 Daisi Lama 18 Hide
19 Falgible 22 Calcutti 23 Whiff 24 Grey
25 Notary
DOWN: 2 Equip 3 Tot 4 Rectification 5 Dune
6 Biretta 7 Steep 10 Lope 12 Ogile 14 Warp
15 Diddler 16 Chic 17 Befly 20 Briar 21 Bury
23 War

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Real cost of flooding

Prediction of the location, frequency and severity of flooding, both coastal and by rivers, is a matter of major practical significance. Water authorities and some local authorities routinely make such assessments. The Thames Barrage, for instance, was only constructed after exhaustive appraisals of the likely risk of a tidal surge inundating low-lying areas of London. Most such studies incorporate a cost/benefit analysis.

One topic in which academic geographers both in the United States and in Britain have played a leading part is in establishing not only the real but also the perceived hazard and in comparing these. Specifically, the Flood Hazard Research Centre in Middlesex Polytechnic is run by geographers and has carried out a series of studies under contract to various agencies. One of their recent projects was an assessment of the benefits of coast protection proposals for Swalecliffe, carried out at the bidding of Canterbury City Council. The area suffered flooding in 1978 and 1979. Parker, Green and Penning-Roswell have shown that, to those involved, the intangibles of worry, disruption of life and health effects rank even higher than damage to house and contents (which currently form the basis of cost-benefit appraisal of flood-control schemes).

Regions in crisis

Half a century has passed since the first major government legislation on regional assistance. By the 1970s, there existed in Britain a notable degree of consensus on the need for an active policy aimed at reducing the gross economic disparities between regions. The incoming Labour Government of 1974 retained the "Conservative" 1972 Industry Act as the basis for its regional policy. The consensus has collapsed in the last few years and the present Government has progressively reduced both the areas qualifying for aid and the level of the aid itself.

FINDINGS

A series reporting on research: Applied geography



Charting industrial decay: the changing face of Britain

What has not existed until now is a comprehensive, consistent and a detailed survey of the impacts of the recession in the regions of Britain. This has now been provided by the Regional Studies Association through a panel of geographers, economists, planners and sociologists interpreting the findings of dozens of local experts throughout the country.

Drawing also upon the computerized employment and unemployment information system set up by geographers for the Manpower Services Commission, the survey paints an unequivocal picture of industrial decay in some regions, of some desperate attempts to restrict local economies, of the relative buoyancy of less urbanized areas of southern England and of the impacts on male and female employment.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, the authors of the study do not nurture rosy views: they foresee the probability of an increase in unemployment in certain regions, they recognise the difficulty of providing regional aid when there is no growth to "steer" and are realistic about the need for political acceptance of the case for a stronger regional policy. Nonetheless, they

Armageddon located

Thanks to the work of Openshaw and Steadman, we now know that the Home Office descriptions of the likely impact of a nuclear strike on Britain are seriously in error. The official estimates have now been acknowledged by the minister as fallacious, resulting from a series of computational mistakes and unreasonable assumptions. The duo contributed important evidence to the British Medical Association inquiry on the medical effects of nuclear war; they have now gone further and produced an assessment of the likely effects of various different attack strategies.

Their results, published in *Doomsday: Britain After Nuclear Attack* (Blackwells) are based upon popular data for no fewer than 150,000 areas in Britain and use arguably the best available assumptions on blast

damage and fallout, provided by the US Department of Defence: protection from buildings and meteorological and many other factors are taken into account.

Their computer models predict and produce maps of the geographical extent of the holocaust. Locally, the variations in survival rates are, of course, extremely great: with the "most realistic" strategy, in which missiles are aimed at industries and targets of military and strategic significance, the survival rate within counties varies from 0.6 per cent (Lancashire) to 99 per cent (East Sussex).

Geography of cricket

Cricket lovers will need no reminding that fortunes in their favourite game are intimately linked to British weather. The events of last summer, in which a number of games in the early part of the season were washed out and many games were subsequently played in debilitating heat, amply confirm this contention. But what if the effects are not random, i.e. what if some teams consistently suffer more frequently than others from the vagaries of the weather? Clearly where teams are in good form and liable to win, then the abandonment of matches deprives them of points in the county championship.

The climate of different parts of Britain is, therefore, a matter of real concern to counties and to the MCC. Thorne has conducted an analysis of the direct effects of rain on cricket and used as data the 170 county matches played in 1974, one of the wettest cricketing summers on record. Of these 85 were rain-affected in one way or another. Two matches were abandoned without a ball being bowled, including Hampshire's final fixture against Yorkshire – which probably cost them the championship. Taking into account the changing incidence of rainfall through the season and the variations throughout Britain, all based on data for a 30-year period, Thorne concluded that the effects of rainfall were substantial and should be compensated by the addition of weather-compensation points, related to the time lost in a game.

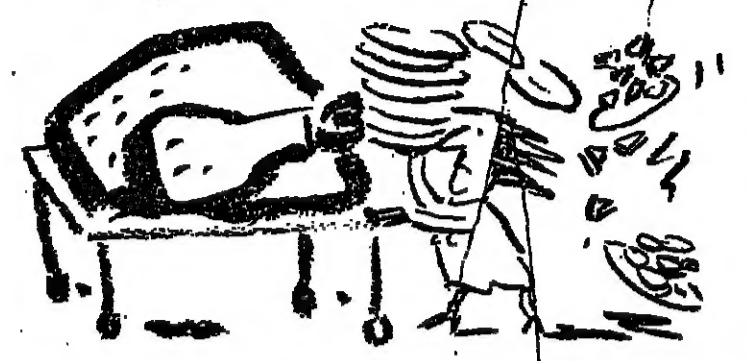
David Rhind

WEDNESDAY PAGE

DIARY OF A JOB HUNTER

I have been buttering bridge rolls, serving sausage rolls, transporting turkeys through underground corridors, taking trays of mince pies to the sixteenth floor, with further trips up to the penthouse - office kitchens are rarely in the most convenient of locations - partitioning pizzas into easily edible bites, quartering quiches, chopping cucumbers, slicing sandwiches, peeling prawns.

For such a job, I have to thank my father - the advantage of "contacts". In his efforts to find a career for his own office party he spoke to a firm suffering from a shortage of staff. If he had hoped that catering work would extend my cooking repertoire in time for Christmas he has been



disappointed. Stuffing dates with marzipan to feed 300 - allowing three per head - demanded perseverance rather than culinary expertise or artistic ability. Stronger arms were also required. Creative cuisine has remarkable similarities with manual labour. My first task - I had to whip sufficient cream to decorate Yule logs and pineapple and ginger meringues with only the use of a fork - was very hard work. I would, however, recommend it to anyone wishing to lose weight.

Plates too tend to be very heavy. They are made of some form of unbreakable concrete. I can vouch for this as not a single one broke when I was promoted to waitressing and fell over.

I had been informing my friends that I found waitressing easy, that their stories of turned-over trolleys, muddling salt and sugar, spilling soup, and other mishaps were gross exaggerations, plagiarising *Family Ties* and such like, and that I no longer believed them. I will be less naïve in future.

In fact I must have created quite an impression as a waitress. There was no danger of my being mistaken for a guest. We all had to wear skirts

PENELOPE LEACH



Babies do not arrive with operating instructions and a service manual: this is clearly perceived as a lack both by new parents and by publishers, for bookshops are bulging with glossy books without which, if you believe the blurbs, no parent could ever rear a child.

Spock's *Baby and Child Care* is the granddaddy of them all. Excellent on illnesses, he is antiquated about behaviour: he favours very early weaning to avoid over-dependence on the mother, hates the family bed idea and fears that a toddler will be unhealthily "stimulated" by the sight of a nude parent.

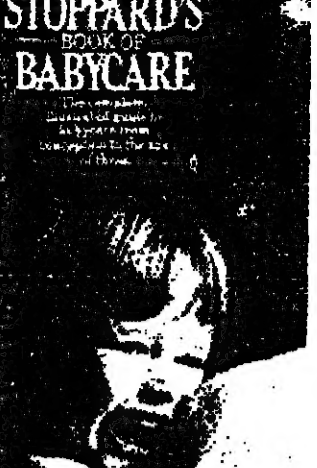
Another favourite single subject is child psychology, a good seller for those times when any baby will seem mad, bad and incomprehensible.

Penelope Leach *Babyhood* shows off the writer's learning with a bibliography of more than 200 academic references and tends to be authoritarian, with charts and lists of what a baby should be doing at different ages; my babies did not fit her schema at all, yet young and alarming dull-wittedness almost by the day.

Martin Herbert's *Problems of Childhood* is more aimed at child-care professionals, while Winnicott's re-issued *The Child, The Family and the Outside World* which claims to be lay reading is in fact heavily and technically psycho-analytic, providing strong meat indeed for parents in its highly theoretical discussions of infant sexual fantasies and a baby's emotional relationship with his carers.

The book that does seem to get it right is Tom Crabtree's *An A-Z of Children's Emotional Problems*. An educational psychologist, Crabtree has obviously read the research literature himself but forbears to ram it down his readers' throats; he is witty and sympathetic both to the young and their struggling parents, and is refreshingly opposed to

MIRIAM STOPPARD'S



with chopping-board or grater, masher, grinder, blender or mincer". I tried all this in a half-hearted way with our first baby, and he spat it out as freely as he did the stuff from the start what we were having anyway, and I minded a lot less.

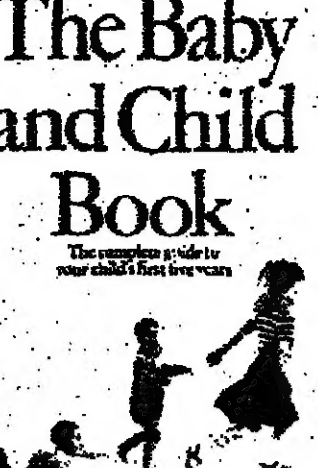
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Dr Andrew & Penny Stanway



earnest self-immolation on the altar of perfect parenthood.

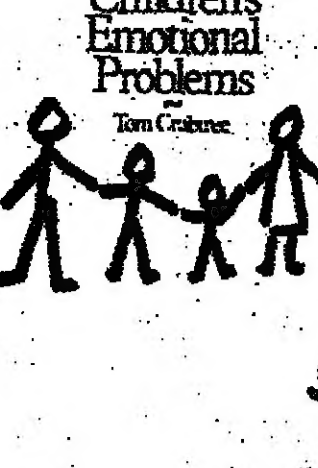
Books on rearing children fall into two very different classes: there are the cosy and general ones, full of pictures and keen to offend no one, and there are the didactic and bossy ones, usually pushing a particular viewpoint with missionary zeal.

The carefully general books tend to be dull compendiums of clichés despite their bizarre moments: a book put out by the magazine *Mother* and "compiled by an experienced family doctor" solemnly recommends putting a piece of onion into boiling water as a strategy to mislead hungry husbands into thinking supper will soon be ready. The *Reader's Digest/Mothercare Book* fills its pages nostalgically with *Boy's Own Annual* stuff on stamp-collecting and brass-rubbing and even includes that old malarkey the footprints of the fallow deer. When not encouraging meek middle-class hobbies, this book concentrates on puffing *Mothercare* rattles, cots and drawing-nightgowns.

Claire Rayner's *Baby and Young Child Care* is the best of the cosies in spite of its rather nasty strip cartoons showing a silly mother and a sensible one coping with feeding problems and the like then talking it over in the kitchen, as in a washing-powder advertisement. A good old-fashioned nurse, Claire Rayner is big on lists: here is merely the only book with a chart entitled "Observation on Stools" against which the hapless parent is supposed to check colour, form, odour, quantity and so on like some ancient haruspex.

These books are ultimately as

An A-Z of Children's Emotional Problems



blatant as Cow and Gate, and about as demanding. The same is not true of the big and bossy ones. These are usually the work of the medical profession: there is Dr Jolly and Dr Miriam Stoppard, Dr Penelope Leach (although she is a psychologist not a physician) and the double-act of Drs Andrew and Penny Stanway.

Mothers who work or who would like to return to work while their children are small would do well to avoid Penelope Leach and the Stanways: Dr Leach especially has the vapours at the idea of a mother going out to earn bread (or even worse jam) and is not above careful editing of the research evidence on bonding and separation to back up her views.

I am a demand-feeder myself but cannot suppress some resentment at these women who can earn lots of money by sitting at home writing books that tell other women not to work. The Stanways graciously suggest, for those without medical degrees and a good publisher, telephone selling from the house or "making things at home" which is presumably a euphemism for out-of-work - a horrid prospect.

The Leach and Stanway cadre manages to imply that nursery staff and childminders are monsters akin to Grendel's mother who will probably die your child in a chair all day and beat him when he sneezes. Miriam Stoppard in her *Book of Baby Care* admits to being a working mother herself and treats the whole subject far more sympathetically; despite her clear preference for "an experienced nanny" she is at least prepared to countenance less high-flown alternatives. She is

SHEILA KITZINGER



refreshing too for owning to a sleepless child who simply cries himself into a vomiting fit when treated to the Penelope Leach approach of saying goodnight calmly but firmly then refusing to lift the child from the cot.

Both Leach *The Parent's A-Z* and Stanways *The Baby and Child Book* are in an alphabetical format and this means that they can cover more topics than Stoppard, for example, beyond her brief but are well handled in both the alphabetical books.

My personal favourite among the bossy doctors is Hugh Jolly, and not just because of his cheery name. In his *Book of Child Care* he can be as dogmatic as the rest of them, but admits to having changed opinions to a more laissez-faire attitude over the years, as in his approval of the "family bed" which so many parents have forced upon them willy-nilly by their babies. He describes childhood illnesses and handicaps clearly and with a calmness that has clearly come from long years working as a paediatrician; the effect on a hysterical parent at three in the morning is infinitely soothing.

The best guide for emergencies is in Leach's *The Parents' A-Z* where most horrors from adder bites to skull fractures are clearly listed under "accidents" with the appropriate action.

There are dozens of books clamouring to be bought, from the banal to the technical: after my enforced overdose of reading the last I am left bitterly depressed. My poor standard of parenting, compared with these know-all, so would counsel anyone against reading too many. People who are confident enough will manage fine without any of them especially if their confidence extends to their GP.

Rachel Cullen

Talking turkey

and refrigerate it for at least 24 hours.

Just before serving decorate the *tacchino tonnato* with a border of lemon wedges or fresh bay leaves, or sprinkle it with chopped parsley.

Anyone embarking on extensive advance preparation can make the pastry and sauce for a turkey pie a day or two in advance and keep them in the refrigerator. The leeks and mushrooms could be sautéed and chilled too. To make a larger or smaller pie, double or halve the ingredients listed and add or subtract five minutes or so to the cooking time.

Turkey pie Serves four

450 g (1 lb) cooked turkey

450 g (1 lb) leeks, white part only

225 g (8 oz) tightly closed button mushrooms

55 g (2 oz) butter

450 ml (¾ pint) béchamel sauce, not too thick

THE TIMES COOK

pan and fry the leeks very gently until they are just tender, breaking them as little as possible. Remove the leeks and add the mushrooms to the pan. Sauté them gently until they are just cooked. Combine the turkey, leeks and mushrooms with the sauce and fold them together. Season the mixture with salt, black pepper and a little freshly grated nutmeg.

Turn the filling into a pie dish and set it aside until it is completely cold.

Roll out the pastry to cover the pie. Cut a strip to line the edge of the pie dish and stick it down with glaze. Place a pie funnel in the centre of the dish and top with the pastry lid. Press the edges well to seal them, and trim away the excess pastry. Decorate the pie with pastry trimmings and, just before baking, glaze the top with egg.

Bake the pie in a preheated moderately hot oven (200°C/400°F, gas mark 6) for about 30 minutes, or until the crust is a rich golden brown and the filling is bubbling. If the pastry colours too quickly, reduce the heat to moderate

Shona Crawford Poole

180°C/350°F, gas mark 4) until the pie is cooked.

Another popular category of request was for "something different but not too extravagant or difficult". For an unexpected opening to a Christmas meal, how about a fresh tasting, fragrant, green coriander soup. Unlike coriander seeds, which have a warm spicy smell, the leaves have a cold, clean taste that Levantine and Indian cooks make much of. The herb is sold in large bunches like those of flat-leaf parsley which it resembles. Greek and Indian food shops are sure sources of supply if the green grocer fails.

Green coriander soup Serves four to six

1 large bunch coriander

225g (8oz) fresh spinach

55g (2oz) fresh mint, or parsley

225g (8oz) potatoes, peeled and chopped

1.75 litres (3 pints) good chicken stock

4 large cloves garlic, peeled and sliced

2.5cm (1 inch) cube fresh ginger, sliced

1 tablespoon whole cumin seeds.

Wash the coriander, spinach and mint or parsley and chop it roughly, stalks and all.

Put the stock in a large pot with all the greenery and potatoes. Add the garlic, ginger, cumin seeds, cardamom pods and bay leaves and bring to the boil. Simmer the soup, uncovered, for about 30 minutes, then fish out the cardamoms and bay leaves. Pass everything else through a coarse sieve or a mouli-legumes.

Rinse the pan and return the pureed soup to it. Reheat, adding salt and lime or lemon juice to taste, and finally the cream. Serve very hot.

The article and interviews on

tipping on this week's Monday Page were written by Compton Miller.

TALKBACK

From Mrs Sue Baker, Grange Farm Cottages, Pax Hill, Lindfield, West Sussex

I was interested to read Hilare Gomer's article on the pros and cons of amniocentesis testing (Wednesday Page, December 7). As I am 38, and expecting our third child, we decided it would be sensible for me to have this test which was offered as a matter of routine. On the day, I was slightly apprehensive, but not unduly so, and used the waiting time to practise deep breathing, and calming exercises. When the needle was inserted I felt at first what Michael House (the consultant mentioned in your article) described as a "pin prick", but followed immediately by intense pain as the needle went through the wall of the uterus.

The test itself, which took approximately 20 minutes as the amniotic fluid came into the syringe very slowly and in minute amounts, was extremely painful, accompanied by severe nausea and faintness. Eventually I asked the doctor to stop, as I felt that such an extreme reaction might indicate possible foetal distress.

After the test the pain grew worse, gradually turning into contractions, which lasted about seven hours, and then returned on the third day for about three hours. Drugs, bed rest and good nursing care prevented me from miscarrying, and although the test could not be carried out because of a small sample obtained, we have refused the offer of another test.

I write, not to be alarmist, but to point out that there are a minority of women for whom the test is not virtually painless, nor a "pin prick".

I should be interested to know if any correlation has

Q. WHAT'S LONG OR SHORT AND GOES DOWN WELL AT CHRISTMAS?

Without question there's only one answer for Christmas spirit - plus the finest choice and superb value into the bargain.

A. PETER DOMINIC CHRISTMAS CRACKERS.

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|--|--|---|
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| Bell's Whisky £7.25 | Peter Dominic Country Bitter LARGE CAN 46p | THE FAMOUS GERMAN FRUITY, MEDIUM WHITE (13) |
| The Famous Grouse Whisky £7.59 | Schweppes Mixers 1 LTR 39p | Piesporter Michelsberg |
| Glendfiddich Malt Whisky £10.99 | WINE | CRISP, FRUITY AND MEDIUM DRY MOSEL (11) |
| Gordon's Gin £6.69 | Liebfraumilch St. Dominic £1.99 | Le Piat de Beaujolais £3.29 |
| Smirnoff Red Label Vodka £6.49 | FRUITY, MEDIUM GERMAN WINE (13) | DISTINCT FLAVOUR OF FRESH GRAPES (4) |
| Hennessy VS Cognac £9.65 | Le Piat D'Or Blanc/Rouge £2.49 | Chateau Giscouls 1977/79 £6.99 |
| Burner Freres Grape Brandy 65.9° £5.79 | REFRESHING, MEDIUM DRY WHITE (11) | AN ELEGANT CLARET OF GREAT CLASS (2) |
| Senior Service Dark Rum £6.99 | MELLOW AND VERY SUPPLE RED (7) | Le Piat Crystal Brut/Demi-Sec £3.69 |
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| Monte Cristo Sherry Range £1.99 | | Moet et Chandon NV £8.99 |
| CREAM, MEDIUM, DRY, PALE CREAM | | FINE CONSISTENT NON VINTAGE CHAMPAGNE (6) |
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VICTORY FOR THE LAW

When the TUC general council meets today it will have before it Mr Joe Wade's account of what his union might do if the leaders of the movement supported its policies for the further prosecution of the Warrington dispute. The NGA might impose another 24-hour strike, he said, or reintroduce mass picketing, or begin an indefinite stoppage. His actions and his words indicated the character of the NGA's commitment: having squandered £750,000 of its members' funds to no purpose, it is prepared to persist with illegal action so long as it is the rest of the movement that shares responsibility for the consequences. If not, not. This was the prospect that Mr Len Murray saw opening up beneath his feet on Monday night, causing him to repudiate with unprecedented force the earlier decision of a senior TUC committee.

The frenzy of the NGA is an embarrassment to the whole of the movement, its political as well as its trade union wing. To endorse the NGA's open-ended promise of conflict would be to reject more than a century's history of campaigning to protect the interests of the movement's members within the law. To make the TUC itself party to the activities which have brought down a series of injunctions in recent weeks would be to bankrupt it not only financially but also politically. Mr Murray appreciates the danger, as he made clear yesterday. If the TUC had been as forthright in its earlier temporising statements about the dispute, the dreams of omnipotence which infected the employment committee on Monday might have been dispelled sooner.

The leaders of the NGA have no illusions of omnipotence. They see plainly that their cause can only be won if the TUC can be persuaded to take it up as a battering-ram in a constitutional challenge to Parliament and the courts. But the Warrington dispute is the worst possible ground from which to launch a political challenge. The timing is wrong, with the Government endowed with a fresh mandate and the TUC in delicate negotiations with ministers about the next round of legislation on industrial relations. The NGA corresponds as little as any union in Britain to the "Banner Bright" stereotype of the impoverished proletariat struggling to resist the exploitations of powerful management.

The principle the union is fighting for is the right of a union to insist that workers become members against their wishes — of all union objectives, the one that attracts the least public sympathy. The means the union has adopted on the streets have been illegal not only since the Tait laws but at any time this century. And of course, if the union won, the implications of success through such methods would be something that future governments would have to live with, whatever their colour.

It is bad luck on Mr Neil Kinnock that the new era that the Labour Party looked forward to under his leadership should so quickly have been thrown into yet another crisis, obliging the leader to compromise, prevaricate or blurt out the lip to avoid confronting the party's dreamers with real life. Mr Kinnock's silences in the last two weeks have been as ignominious as Mr Foot's reversals, without the

excuse that in the months leading up to a general election it is better not to rock the boat. It was welcome yesterday to hear him confess at last that he did not condone breaches of the law, and add (if only at second hand through Mr John Smith) that he is glad the NGA have suspended their one-day strike.

The Labour front bench has concentrated on the line that what is needed to restore peace in the industry is ministerial intervention. But faith in the conciliatory abilities of one's opponents is not sufficient policy by itself. Labour has stressed the need for peace, without dwelling on the terms that peace should enshrine. The new laws, the argument goes, have transformed a minor dispute, easily soluble under the old dispensation, into a "national industrial volcano." This ignores the fact that under the old dispensation the dispute would have been resolved by the dragging of unwilling workers into the NGA, or else lose their jobs.

Now the new laws have triumphantly arrested a threat of major industrial action. Mr Kinnock, as the proponent of peace, can scarcely do less than welcome that. No doubt he can trust Mr Murray today to save the TUC from giving its blessing to renewed hostilities, and from endorsing the doctrine that muscle should prevail. But a general observation from Mr Kinnock to the effect that people who believe the law to be wrong ought to change it, not break it, or words to that effect, might have reinforced Mr Murray's arm. It is what the country expects from a leader who aspires to lead.

WHEN GENERALS DISMOUNT

After the approval yesterday of Mr Turgut Ozal's cabinet by President Kenan Evren, Turkey is now once again formally under civilian rule. It has achieved this only three days behind Argentina, where military rule was introduced, in rather similar circumstances, four and a half years earlier.

The circumstances of the return to civilian rule, by contrast, could hardly be more different in the two countries. The Argentine military rulers not only overstayed their welcome long enough to mismanage the economy quite as spectacularly as their civilian predecessors; they actually managed to involve their country in an unnecessary and disastrous war, thus dashing any hope that they might retain the authority to dictate the terms of their own departure and insure their impunity for the violations of human rights committed under their aegis. How different from General Evren, who last year was able to procure himself a seven-year presidential mandate by an overwhelming plebiscite and, even if he did not get his first choice elected as prime minister, has been able to ensure that the new government is headed by a man who defends the human rights record of the military

regime, and even that civilian government will coexist, for another three months at least, with continued martial law.

The Turkish countercurrent has been, unquestionably, a better managed and less anarchic affair than that of Argentina in the late 1970s. Not many people have just "disappeared" without trace. If the number of people detained for political reasons increased vastly after the military intervention of September 1980, that was justified, in the eyes of most Turks, by the need to stamp hard on the terrorism of left and right which had reached such alarming proportions in the last months of civilian rule.

But that argument cannot justify the continued and systematic use of torture, evidence of which has been carefully collected by Amnesty International. Nothing indeed could justify the barbaric treatment of Kurdish prisoners, including the former mayor of Diyarbakir, Mr Mehdi Zana, which has been described in detail by Mr Huseyin Yildirim, who started as a lawyer for the accused and then found himself for six months sharing their ordeal, while being subjected to inhuman treatment which he has described in horrifying detail.

Imprisonment of large numbers of suspected terrorists during investigation, and execution of some of the worst offenders when duly convicted, are clearly quite a different matter. But many of those still imprisoned in Turkey for political reasons have not even been accused of terrorism.

Mr Ozal enjoys a considerable fund of Western goodwill, both as a competent economist capable of ensuring Turkey's continued creditworthiness and as a civilian who has come to power by popular choice, even if the field of choice was artificially limited. Turkey herself, even if some feel she is the main obstacle to a solution of the Cyprus problem, is generally seen in the West as a reliable and indispensable ally. But the reason that civilian, democratic government is regarded as a valuable feature in an ally is that the Western alliance aspires to be an alliance of peoples, not only of governments. Over time, the true character of an ally's government will inevitably be judged by its ability to do away with and do without repressive methods. Mr Ozal knows the West quite well enough to be aware of that, and on that understanding we can all wholeheartedly wish him luck.

AID TO AN ADVERSARY

Russia has relied heavily on Western experts and know-how since the time of Peter the Great. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries Western capital and technical assistance flowed into new industries. After the revolution Western assets were seized but Lenin soon granted concessions to Western companies. Even when these were abolished Western firms continued to sell goods, plant and know-how. After the war East-West trade declined during tensions and then revived in the 1970s. Today Soviet imports of Western machinery continue to rise in spite of the cooler political atmosphere.

There is, however, a slow change in Western policy under way. Prodded by Washington, the Nato allies have been tightening procedures designed to prevent the Soviet Union and its allies acquiring advanced technology that could be of critical value to military programmes. A review is under way of the list of goods restricted by the Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls (Cocom) based in Paris. Cocom is also to receive better facilities and more expert advice, though it seems unlikely to get the military panel suggested by the Americans. At the same time counter-espionage and customs surveillance have been increased in many Nato countries, particularly in the United States.

The whole issue is complex and difficult because it impinges on many sensitive areas, such as

academic freedom, commercial profits and above all trading relations with allies, as the pipeline dispute showed. It also runs into differences over the political implications of trade with the Soviet block. At the same time modern technology has made it more difficult than ever to distinguish between civilian and military applications.

The problem is to find the right response. Overall Soviet growth may not have been significantly helped by imports from the West, but there are obviously certain key areas of the economy which have gained, and in some of these there have also been military benefits. One of the examples most often cited in the United States is the Soviet purchase of American grinding machines which produced precision bearings for missile guidance systems. On the other hand Admiral Luman has testified in Washington that about seventy per cent of Soviet military gains attributed by the CIA to Western technology were acquired by Soviet and East European intelligence services using clandestine, technical and overt collection operations. Therefore legitimate trade is probably not the main culprit, and where it has been helpful to the Soviet military it has often been supplying electronic goods which are freely available over the counter in a great many parts of the world.

It is thus very difficult to find means of control which are not

at the same time damaging to Western interests. Cut down on academic publication and you limit innovation. Limit the movement of modern technology and civilian applications will suffer. Tighten controls on exports and domestic firms lose contracts to competitors outside Cocom. Press the Europeans too hard and they stop relying on American suppliers and licences. Try to guess which innovations are going to have vital military applications in five years' time and you face a hopeless task. Yet the Soviet Union clearly cannot be allowed to have an easy ride, even if its failure to catch up with the West in spite of all the help it has had suggests it will continue to lag behind for the foreseeable future.

The best thing to do is to concentrate efforts where there is already agreement among the allies. There is little dispute over the need for better counter-espionage and more expert customs controls. Nor is there any disagreement that high technology with obvious military application should be denied to our main adversary. The Americans are also right to argue that know-how is more important than products. (This has been emphasized in a report by a Pentagon task force headed by Mr Fred Buecy Jr.) If significant progress can be made in all these areas it would help to restrict the relatively small (though still significant) contribution which legitimate trade can make to the Soviet military potential.

Concerted plan for conveyancing

From Lord Benson

Sir, The House Buyers Bill, which is shortly to be debated in Parliament, is crudely drawn and ill thought-out. Provisions which are necessary for the protection of the public are spelt out either inadequately or not at all, such as the definition of the transactions which are to be encompassed by the Bill; education and training; post-qualification education; protection of clients' money; standard of professional work; discipline; insurance; compensation and many others.

My purpose, however, is not to labour the obvious imperfections in a clumsy piece of drafting but to emphasise a more important point of principle. The professions in this country on the whole compare very favourably with those in any other part of the world and in many respects they are the acknowledged leaders. This is because, by their written constitutions and by tradition, they seek, year after year, to improve the quality of service which they give to the public.

It is achieved by imposing on their members the very constraints which are not properly dealt with in the House Buyers Bill, namely, high standards — beyond those required by law, education and training, professional disciplines and protection for the public against loss, negligence and dishonesty.

These services will be destroyed if Bills are brought before Parliament which establish a second grade of performance, not even professional in character, which does not provide the skills and protection to which the public is entitled. There is much complaint about the delays in concluding conveyancing transactions, which waste time and money. A major reason for delay is not the dilatoriness of the lawyers but the difficulty encountered by buyers in finding the cash while they sell an existing property.

Calke Abbey

From Mr A. M. Alexander

Sir, It seems churlish to embellish your second leader (December 9) but despite the protestations in the Commons by the minister on Wednesday, the trustees of Calke Abbey have only words to add to their already generous and complete, offer to the nation.

The responsibility for this state of affairs lies with the Secretary of State for the Environment, not the Treasury as Mr Cormack implied (December 7). The necessary funds would be available if Mr Jenkin exercised his discretion.

The minister's assertion that there still remain unconsidered alternatives is illusory. Other solutions have been exhaustively considered by the owners and the National Trust, and others over the last two years. Mr Macfarlane in the Commons took up Lord Charteris's suggestion (December 7) that a portion of the National Heritage Memorial Fund, the trustees, and the National Trust, are consulting, yet again, with any other interested parties to try to find the £7.5m required.

The Historic Buildings Council fully supports the attempts being made to save the property. The

Very often there is a long chain of transactions all of which are held in abeyance until a particular transaction can be brought to a conclusion.

Nothing will eradicate these problems. Nevertheless, a much-needed overhaul of the conveyancing process is long overdue. The legal profession has, I think, been slow to respond to changes which are necessary, but in its own limited field it is now taking vigorous steps for improvement.

But it would be wrong to load the whole, or even the major part, of the blame on the legal profession. Many others involved in the conveyancing process have, for years past, been equally sluggish, including Government departments, local authorities, building societies and others.

All of them should work together on a concerted plan. This was examined with care and set out in painstaking detail in the report of the Royal Commission on Legal Services, which was published in 1979. It would, I suggest, be a convenient starting point for the reforms which are necessary for the public benefit.

Yours faithfully,
BENSON,
House of Lords.

From Mr T. P. FitzPatrick
Sir, For years we lawyers have toasted the home-made will maker as a fruitful source of work and income. I shall look forward to raising many a fine bumper in the direction of Mr Austin Mitchell and his licensed conveyancers. Yours faithfully,
T. P. FITZPATRICK,
T. P. FitzPatrick and Co.,
Meeds House,
70 Station Road,
Burgess Hill,
West Sussex.
December 8

Harpur-Crewe trustees have offered hereditament property, at a cost to themselves of an additional £2.9m in tax and £1m in interest, whilst the negotiations continue, so much for the "advantage" to them and the contribution expected of them.

What then is Mr Macfarlane's "significant contribution"? He is prepared to permit the trustees their statutory right to hand over the hereditament property, but not its support, in lieu of tax; thus he denies the nation the benefit of such expertise — it seems as a punishment because, as you indicate, the trustees did not practice tax avoidance to the tune of the £7.5m, which could have saved Calke and made them, not the nation, that much richer.

Is it not ironic that on the same day that a West German local authority pays £8m to save a single book as part of its heritage, the Secretary of State cannot let the taxpayer hand over a slightly lesser sum to save a vital piece of England and its history, and employment to an area where all agree, including the Government's advisers on such matters, that action is necessary?

Yours faithfully,
A. M. ALEXANDER,
Roya's Barfield, Solicitors,
2 Crane Court, EC4,
December 9.

Sentences on Turks

From Professor Emeritus Peter Worsley and others

Sir, Over the last two years more than 600 academics have been sacked from Turkish universities, the establishment of a Higher Education Council has enabled President Evren to appoint university rectors and disperse with university autonomy and laws.

Now (The Times, November 15), after an 18-month trial, savage sentences have been passed on a number of academics and intellectuals prominent in Turkey's peace movement.

It is extraordinary that in a member state of Nato and the Council of Europe distinguished professors such as Melih Tumer, Dean of the Political Science Faculty of Istanbul University, should be sentenced to eight years' hard labour and 32 months' exile, and Metin Ozek, of the university's Medical Faculty, to five years' hard labour and 30 months' exile, for expressing views similar to those voiced by CND in this country.

We are equally concerned about the plight of Dr Gecay Shaylan, Senior Lecturer in Public Administration; Dr Haluk Tosun, Head of the Department of Electrical Engineering at the Middle East Technical University; and Dr Erdal Atalik, President of the Turkish Medical Association.

Mr Ali Sirmen, foreign affairs columnist of the prestigious daily newspaper, Cumhuriyet and author of several books on Turkish foreign policy, has also been sentenced to eight years' hard labour. The

prisoners are being kept 18 to a cell, in cells measuring 20 square metres, without heating or ventilation. We find it utterly repugnant that these distinguished and elderly people should be sentenced for "crimes of thought" under articles 141 and 142 of the Turkish Penal Code, which were borrowed from Mussolini's Italy.

Whatever one's views on the means of achieving world peace, these activities surely cannot be construed as "against the national interest" and tantamount to treason. The North Atlantic Treaty, to which Turkey is a signatory, commits its members to "safeguard the freedom, common heritage and civilisation of their peoples, founded on the principles of democracy, individual liberty and the rule of law". The verdicts passed by the military tribunals in Istanbul cast doubt over the validity of the claim that Turkey has returned to democracy.

Yours etc,
PETER WORSLEY (University of Manchester),
DAVID BEETHAM (University of Leeds),
T. B. BOTTOMORE (University of Oxford),
BERNARD CRICK (University of London),
GERALD PARRY (University of Manchester),
RAYMOND WILLIAMS (University of Cambridge),
ALAN WILSON (University of Leeds),
30 Maudslough Road,
Heaton Mersey,
Stockport,
Cheshire.
December 6.

Of course the world needs the UN: equally it needs smaller regional groupings (as recognised under article 51) which can contribute to stability and security in their own areas. If another world war occurs it is more likely to be ignited in Europe than elsewhere. Hence the need for the firm, resolute pursuit of peace in the European theatre.

The collapse of Nato would be fraught with danger to world peace and I cannot believe that any of our political parties represented in Parliament (as distinct from the CND) could contemplate such a possibility.

As someone who was recently privileged to meet the Russian leaders attending the Edinburgh conference (including two Russian generals) I do not for a moment believe that the USSR is plotting immediate war against us. There is a mood of cautious realism, coupled, I believe, with genuine fears inherited from the brutal and unprovoked invasion of their territory in World

Need for openness in public life

From Mr Alex Henney

Sir, I used to work for the Civil Service. I welcome Sir Douglas Wass's call in the Reith lectures for open government. But the issue is wider than he suggests.

In the new year the LECC (London Electricity Consultative Council) will publish "Making the London Electricity Board more publicly accountable", which includes detail on consumer access to LEB information. I am glad to say that it records the progress the board has taken to become more open. But the LEB is unusual in this.

In 1972 Nationalized Industries' Relations with the Public (Cmd 5067) recommended a greater exchange of information between the Central Electricity Generating Board and consumer councils. It advocated fuller dialogue on "the implications for consumers of bulk supply and investment plans". The CEGB said that it accepted the proposals.

It did very little for the next 10 years. And this month the Chairman of the CEGB was party to a document stating: "It is accepted that it is inappropriate for the board's capital investment programme to be made available to the Electricity Consumers Council". Yet the board now has a duty under the Energy Act, 1983, to inform the ECC of its "general plans and arrangements for performing its functions".

French press ruling

From Professor R. Errera

Sir, Re your editorial, "Stop Press" (December 12), it would be inappropriate for me to comment on the merits of the dispute involving the NGA. However, it might interest your readers to know how an analogous problem was dealt with in France.

The Constitutional Council has the power, upon a reference by 60 members of the National Assembly or of the Senate for example, to decide whether statutes are in accordance with the French Constitution, after a statute has been passed by Parliament and before it is promulgated.

In October, 1982, the Constitutional Council decided that a statutory provision conferring a

Oxford admissions

From Professor H. Lloyd-Jones

Sir, Professor Ronald Mellor (December 6), referring to a letter in the New York Times, published in 1980, in which I ventured to suggest that President Reagan was not a stupid man, writes that I "assured its readers that European intellectuals had the highest regard for the mental capacities of candidate Reagan". So it is not surprising that his comment on my recent letter (November 14) about admissions to Oxford needs some elucidation.

I was concerned to point out that any change in the admission procedures of important universities results in changes in the schools. Since the fifties, when all academic testing in the United States was committed to the College Entrance Examination Board, with standardised tests (even before the invention of the computer) graded mechanically, the universities have reported a decline in certain basic skills, especially in the writing of English. Also, since there is no longer any common subject matter in the school curricula, one can no longer assume that students who have done three years of high school English will have studied Shakespeare, much less predict which of his works they are likely to have read.

During the last few years, the scores registered on the CEEB tests have fallen: universities are finding that they must make up for what the schools do not teach by putting in core curricula, as at Harvard, or required courses in expository writing, as at Wellesley.

When, after the Second World War, American universities dropped Latin as an entrance requirement, Latin in the schools declined. Later, when many universities dropped their language requirement, language programmes in the schools were much reduced.

If Oxford examines candidates for entrance one year earlier, school curricula are likely to be adjusted; if it abandons them altogether, or offers alternative routes, allowing A levels to substitute wholly or in part for entrance examinations, Oxford will no longer be able to ensure that candidates for entrance possess certain kinds of knowledge. American universities are obliged to take what they are offered, which can be of high quality, but varies greatly; Oxford will then be in a similar position and will have to deal with entrants in ways which it does not at present reckon with and to reduce its own curriculum to suit entrants of a lower standard.

I am, Sir, yours etc,
HUGH LLOYD-JONES,
Christ Church,
Oxford,
December 6.

suggests (December 9) and indeed as the Parisians have been doing for the last 20 years.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT HOLDEN, Chairman,
South East Chapter Landscape Institute,
3 Merrick Square, SE1,
December 11.

The name's the thing

From Mr Andrew MacLean Watt

Sir, I'm sorry The Times felt it appropriate to be so cute and condescending about the Japanese use of English-derived or English-sounding brand names (Ross Davies, December 2).

It is true that many sound strange to a native English speaker, but our feelings are irrelevant to Japanese manufacturers selling products in the Japanese market. Quite naturally, all they are concerned about is the response of Japanese consumers. (It's quite another thing of course, in export markets.)

Pocari Sweat does indeed seem a bold name for a soft drink. But it has been one of the most successful new products in years.

Yours truly,
ANDREW MACLEAN WATT
Watt International,
22 Great Marlborough Street, W1,
December 6.

a statutory term of art that covers its capital programme.

Why cannot the British public know the plans of a corporation it owns, and which is supposed to operate *pro bono publico*? It is easy to find out such details about privately owned American utilities: you ask and you receive.

The ECC itself, nominally the consumer's watchdog, is little better. The first formal motion it passed on becoming a statutory body was to exclude the press and public from its meetings. It spent a third of its next meeting berating me for refusing to accept its confidentiality proposals. As its third meeting it refused to associate itself with the 1984 campaign on Freedom of Information. And at its fourth meeting, yesterday, it declined to press the CEGB in a forthright manner for the information to which it is legally entitled: it was more concerned to get on with the industry than to get on with its job.

Secrecy is an endemic disease of British public life. It breeds the sloppiness and trimming that characterise so much behaviour. We need openness in public life to discipline performance and make it accountable.

ALEX HENNEY, Chairman,
London Electricity Consultative Council,
Newspaper House,
Great North Street, EC4,
December 8.

complete immunity upon trade unions, workers and shop stewards arising out of industrial disputes (except for criminal conduct) was unconstitutional. The basis for the decision was that such an immunity was contrary to the constitutional principle of equality before the law.

The inequality was twofold: in conferring an immunity upon particular groups and individuals; in denying legal redress to the victims of tortious conduct who, as the Constitutional Council observed, could well be workers and members of other unions.

Yours faithfully,
R. ERRERA,
Visiting Professor of French Law,
Faculty of Laws,
University College London,
4-8 Endsleigh Gardens, WCI,
December 13.

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Yours truly,
ANDREW MACLEAN WATT
Watt International,
22 Great Marlborough Street, W1,
December 6.

What Keynes meant

From Professor Richard Rose

Sir, Professor Silberston (December 3) has done a useful service in reminding us of the context in which Keynes wrote: "In the long run we are all dead."

Perhaps another reader would like to confirm whether, when Keynes first said this in Cambridge, a colleague responded: "No, in the long run, each of us is dead."

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD ROSE, Director,
Centre for the Study of Public Policy,
University of Strathclyde,
McCauley Building,
16 Richmond Street,
Glasgow,
December 7.

THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

British Airways in the shadow of Telecom

By any standard, accounting or otherwise, Lord King, Mr Colin Marshall, Mr Gordon Dunlop and the rest of the senior management team have done a remarkably fine job putting British Airways into commercial and financial shape. Lord King was installed by Mrs Thatcher with one overriding purpose: to privatise BA.



Colin Marshall: management team successful

The job has taken much longer than he thought, but if it is true, as BA and its financial advisers insist, that BA is ready for take-off early next autumn, he is entitled to feel slightly miffed by the Government's consuming obsession with selling 49 per cent of British Telecom.

Telecom has been given the autumn 1984 slot and BA has to wait until 1985.

The attraction for the Treasury of £4 billion from Telecom is not hard to understand. Nor are the risks. Opposition to the Telecom sale is fierce, notably among private sector companies.

In addition the marketing of an issue of this size for a corporation of Telecom's complexity will test every nerve and sinew of Telecom's bankers, brokers and professional marketers.

The crux for potential investors, British and American, will be the pricing formula the Government adopts to protect Telecom's customers from abuse of its monopoly power. The fear is not that users of the telephone network will be overcharged; it is that interfering governments, with an eye on the telephone vote, will keep charges down.

If that fear is realized - precedents in nationalized industry pricing argue that it will - BT would be valued in the market as a dull utility and not as a high technology growth stock which everyone would want to hold.

The schedule for the Telecom sale is extremely tight and it still might not be met. The sale, though on time, might be a frost. The BA sale might have to be put back further and in a volatile business such as airlines, the commercial weather can change rapidly.

The date for the company's transfer to the status of public limited company (plc) has been set for April 1, 1984, a date not meant presumably as a joke, and the pension fund problem that raises its head in every privatization issue appears to be resolved.

The two important issues of BA's dominance of international routes and the

shape of its balance sheet have still not been resolved. On the balance sheet, Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Transport Secretary, and the Treasury are still keeping their options open.

BA's profits this year and next are capable of paying off up to say £300m of its outstanding £950m of debt by the time of flotation. Mr Ridley has dropped hints that BA can make further contributions with the sale of assets, including possibly its helicopter and Airtrous divisions.

Revaluation of assets on the positive side of the balance sheet would also help to make the debt figure more manageable and provide BA with an operational balance sheet. In the last analysis there will be a trade-off between the debt and the proceeds of the flotation. BA looks like being valued at £800m or so on the market, but net proceeds from the sale of shares will be much lower than this figure implies, whatever debt restructuring scheme is adopted.

As for British Caledonian's cheeky, but politically astute bid for some of BA's assets, the Government has neatly dodged the issue by referring the matter to the Civil Aviation Authority, the statutory authority which issues licences. It will produce a statement on the principles underlying the allocation of routes in about six months.

Lord King will resist any efforts to strip some of his prized routes away but do not be surprised if the outcome of the review is a "spontaneous" decision by BA to unload some assets in the direction of its smaller rivals.

Time the Eagle was landed

Speculation over the outcome of the bidding for Eagle Star was reaching fever pitch last night. As this morning's 9.30 deadline for Allianz Versicherungs to beat the 660p per share offered by BAT loomed nearer, the market was saying that Allianz had negotiated to sell its 30 per cent stake in Eagle for £8 a share.

All sides quickly denied the rumour. Sir Denis Mountain, chairman of Eagle Star, who had most to gain if it proved true, was one of the first to say that although he had heard the market gossip, he did not believe there was any truth in it.

The Takeover Panel was also adamant that Allianz would come back with improved terms, and spent much of yesterday afternoon agreeing the wording of today's announcement from Allianz. Despite the denials, Eagle's shares rose by

22p to close at 719p yesterday. But those closest to the battle continued to debate what the Allianz offer terms will be.

Allianz has four options. To come back at a few pence more, which would mean a bid of between 661p and 670p per share. To produce a blockbuster - a winning bid - in the region of £7 per share. To produce a bid which is conditional upon more information from Eagle Star. To produce a bid which is conditional upon the agreement of the Eagle board.

Whatever the outcome, the show has gone on for too long. The future ownership of Eagle Star must be decided quickly to protect the interests of policyholders and employees who may be tempted to desert the company, thus destroying the successful business which has tempted such takeover interest.

Pound plunges again as oil price doubts intensify

By Peter Wilson-Smith and Jonathan Davis

The inexorable rise of the dollar combined with speculation over lower North Sea oil prices pushed sterling to new depths against the American currency yesterday.

For the first time the pound fell below \$1.42 and it also weakened against other leading currencies, closing 0.5 down at 82.0 on its trade-weighted value.

Most of the pound's recent weakness has reflected the rise in the dollar. Other important currencies have suffered likewise. But yesterday's reports of a cut in the British National Oil Corporation's prices, coming at a time when oil jitters have made sterling vulnerable, led to heavy selling in the afternoon.

At one stage the pound touched \$1.4175 before recovering slightly to close in London down 1.15 cents at \$1.4195. However it was soon down to \$1.4170 in New York trade.

The dollar rebounded after an early setback on the big rise in US retail sales in November which dealers interpreted as another sign of the rapid US growth which could encourage the Federal Reserve to tighten restraints on monetary growth.

Renewed tension in the Middle East fuelled its rise as the dollar reached record heights against the franc and mark.

Towards the London close the dollar was pressing against the DM270 level although it closed 1.5 pence higher on the day.

Sterling ended a Pfenning weaker at DM3.9325 and some dealers believe it could weaken further against the strong dollar, a view shared by Mr David Morrison of Simon & Coates, the stockbrokers. He said the twin pressures of oil price fears and demand for dollars could push sterling as low as \$1.38. There was no sign of any

significant Bank of England intervention yesterday. The Treasury is believed to be unwilling to risk flitting away reserves in attempts to support the currency beyond the usual smoothing.

The British National Oil Corporation confirmed that it had opened discussions yesterday with oil companies about the price of North Sea oil, following last week's Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries meeting in Geneva.

Industry reports suggested that US oil companies were likely to put pressure on BNOC, the traditional price-setter for North Sea oil, to cut the reference price of \$30 a barrel by between \$1 and \$1.50 from January 1.

Such a move would not only put further downward pressure on sterling, but would also raise the prospect of retaliatory action by Opec, as happened

this year, with the associated threat of a price-cutting war and a sharp drop in prices.

BP, Shell and Esso, the most important producers of North Sea oil, are asking a more cautious line however, and the possibility of anything more than a marginal drop in the price of North Sea oil is considered remote by most industry analysts.

Shell UK confirmed that it was talking to BNOC about prices for the first quarter of next year, but said: "It is not our intention to press for a reduction in price."

Esso also said that it had not made any request.

Mr Peter Walker, the Secretary of State for Energy, is keeping an eye on developments, but the official line is still that the government will leave it to BNOC to settle prices in response to market forces.

Inchcape in £36m cash takeover

By Jonathan Clare

Inchcape is buying Transcontinental Services Group's trade service division for £36m in cash. Transcontinental intends to use this to expand the financial services field and the board says that it has already examined several businesses.

The trade services division became a subsidiary of Transcontinental more than a year ago, and represents the bulk of the company's interests. Transcontinental subsequently made several acquisitions for division in the fields of loss adjusting, cargo inspection and non-destructive testing.

Transcontinental is a holding company incorporated in the Netherlands Antilles in September last year to acquire Esperanza International Service. Board members include Lord Kissin and Mr Jacob Rothschild.

Companies in the trade services division include Caleb Brett, Graham Miller, Matthews-Daniel and Gellatly Hanley. The division made profits of £4.3m on a turnover of £7.4m in the year to last March and has net assets of £12.8m.

The companies acquired by Inchcape are essentially those which formed the old Esperanza group.

The deal will almost double the net assets of Transcontinental from 111p per share to 208p per share. Transcontinental has a cash balance of £20m and a financial services division which acts as an investment management and trust administration business.

Output falters but trend is upwards

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Industrial activity faltered in October, but production was still 1.5 per cent higher than a year earlier according to figures from the Central Statistical Office.

After showing a revised 0.7 per cent rise in September, industrial production slipped by a provisional 0.5 per cent in October. The index of manufacturing output fell by 0.3 per cent, to stand 1.2 per cent above a year ago.

The monthly figures for industrial production have been consistently erratic and have been revised frequently. Over a three-month period, which officials believe gives a better indication of the underlying trend, the figures suggest that activity is still rising slowly, but the recovery remains patchy.

In the three months to October industrial production was 1 per cent above the level of manufacturing output, while oil

and gas extraction showed a 6 per cent rise.

Figures yesterday from the Department of the Environment in the construction industry reveal a 7 per cent rise in output in the third quarter of this year over the second quarter.

The latest industrial production figures are unlikely to resolve the debate over the durability of the economic recovery. However, Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor yesterday sought to reassure critics about the accuracy of the Government's autumn forecasts.

He compared the Government's forecasts for growth with the result in a written parliamentary answer, which showed that the Government had underestimated the drop in gross national product in 1980, but had underestimated the growth in the economy last year and this.

Clausen plea to Reagan

From Bailey Morris, Washington

Mr A. W. "Tom" Clausen, President of the World Bank, has sent an urgent letter to President Reagan asking him to join 32 other nations in providing increased development funds to the poorest countries.

Mr Clausen appealed to the President after the collapse of negotiations in Paris on an increased level of funding for the World Bank's International Development Agency (IDA).

turned aside the appeals of 32 other nations to provide a total of \$12 billion \$8.4 billion in replenishment funds for the IDA. It said that it could not get that amount through Congress.

Instead, the US said it would cut its own commitment to 25 per cent of the total or \$750 m over three years which would result in a more restrictive overall level of \$9 billion.

At the Paris meetings, the US

Budgen bids £12.8m cash for Bishop's

By Our Financial Staff

Booker McConnell, which operates the Budgens supermarket chain, has emerged as the bidder for Bishop's Group, formerly Bishop's Stores, nearly six months after news of an approach became public.

Booker, which is involved in food, engineering and publishing, is offering £12.8m in cash with a loanstock alternative.

The terms have been accepted by the Bishop's directors and shareholders who control 61 per cent of the ordinary shares and 51 per cent of "A" shares.

Bishop's and Budgen are not direct competitors in any area and Booker expected both to benefit from economies of scale.

Mr James Gulliver's Argyle Group, which operates the Presto supermarket chain, was also said to have been interested in Bishop's Stores.

The terms are 291p cash for each ordinary share and 221p cash for each "A" share.

The loanstock alternative is 9.5 per cent loan notes 1989, and the terms will appear in the formal offer document.

Points from the Interim Report

Promising Developments in Oil Operations

- * Recent developments in oil operations will significantly improve second half results.
- * Production from the Maureen oil-field started in September. Acquisition of additional holding in Maureen from BET and purchase of unit in BP's Forties field will both be effective on January 1, 1984.
- * Results improved at Calor Group and in Oil Operations Group at interim stage. CompAir results adversely affected by intensified price competition, particularly in construction sector.
- * Interim dividend increase of one-third (from 3p to 4p) reflects intention to reduce disparity between mid-term and final payments.

| (All figures in '000's) | Half year to 30.9.83 (unaudited) | Half year to 30.9.82 (unaudited) | Year to 31.3.83 (audited) |
|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Turnover | 204,704 | 193,744 | 486,708 |
| Trading profit | 12,957 | 11,651 | 55,597 |
| Depreciation | (12,057) | (10,648) | (22,558) |
| Income from allied companies | — | — | 6,104 |
| Share of profits of associated companies | 3,065 | 3,117 | 10,760 |
| Income from general investments | 618 | 490 | 787 |
| Interest (net) | (5,679) | (6,382) | (13,200) |
| (Loss)/Profit before taxation | (1,066) | (1,772) | 38,500 |
| Taxation | (751) | (882) | (6,082) |
| (Loss)/Profit after taxation | (1,817) | (2,654) | 32,418 |
| Minority interests | (172) | (74) | (2,842) |
| Extraordinary item | — | — | (428) |
| (Loss)/Profit attributable to IC Gas | (1,989) | (2,728) | 28,148 |

Figures for the half-year provide little guidance to the outcome for the year because of seasonal influences on the Group's activities and because at that stage no contribution from certain major elements of the Group's investment in Belgium is included.

IC Gas Group comprises: CALOR GROUP - sale and distribution of Calor Gas and appliances; COMPAIR GROUP - manufacture and supply of compressed air equipment; OIL OPERATIONS GROUP - gas and oil exploration and production; BELGIAN GROUP - investments in electricity and gas industries and in Petrofina S.A.

ICGas

Copies of the full Interim Statement can be obtained from:
Imperial Continental Gas Association
c/o Messrs. H. G. W. & Co.
London EC2Y 9BS

NEWS IN BRIEF

Losses cut by £700,000 at IC Gas

IC Gas yesterday reported first-half pre-tax losses to the end of September down £700,000 at just under £1.1m. However, the company expected, a boost in the second-half from the rapid build-up in production at the Maureen North Sea oil field in which its stake is about to rise to 11.5 per cent.

Volume rates of its offshoot Calor Gas at the end of last month were stronger than in the same period last year and these are expected to lift the second-half figures.

● Henry Ainslie Holdings, British merchant bank, is expanding in the US. It has bought a 10-man consultancy headed by Mr Christopher Shaw to advise on mergers and acquisitions in New York. The service will be based on a databank developed since 1969 and owned by Tidema, a Liechtenstein-based charitable trust. Mr Shaw has a five-year contract at \$75,000 a year plus expenses.

● The Dow Jones industrial average was down 4.07 to 1,257.51 yesterday. Declines led advances 509=396 among the 1,371 issues crossing the tape.

● McCormac, the security and specialist printers, raised pre-tax profits 18 per cent in the year to last September to £7.2m. Turnover rose from £100m to £111m. Current trading looks good and the group is paying an 11 per cent dividend increase to 10p per share.

● Investors' Notebook page 17
● Skanks, the Scottish hotel company, has bought the Great Tree Hotel in Aberdeen from Bass to replace the Royal Darroch, recently destroyed by fire. Great Tree Tops is bigger than the Royal Darroch but has a similar three-star rating.

Slough announces terms

By Our Financial Staff

Slough Estates' takeover terms for Allnatt London Properties and Guildhall Property will create an industrial property company with a market value of between £325m and £350m and a portfolio worth £650m.

The terms were announced yesterday, just a day after the surprise news that the three property companies were talking again. Negotiations had been publicly dropped two weeks before.

Yesterday the participants said that the deal was a merger of the three, but analysts said that it looked more like a merger on Slough's terms.

Slough is offering 185 of its shares for every 100 in Allnatt,

equivalent to more than 220p per share. The terms for the much smaller Guildhall are equivalent to about 150p a share. But there are attractive cash or loanstock alternatives which the City believes most outside shareholders would accept.

They are equivalent to 245p per share for Allnatt stock and 162p per Guildhall share and compare with a combined net asset value for both companies of 291p. The two are controlled by two shareholder-directors, Mr Leslie Smith and Mr Ronald Diggins, who are taking Slough shares.

Together with family interests, the two control about 60 per cent of Allnatt's shares.

Targets are Saudi Arabia, Iran, Libya and Algeria

UK aims at 25% export jump

By John Lawless

Britain has adopted a new business strategy in the Middle East which aims to increase exports, now running at more than £6 billion a year, by 25 per cent.

The plan will be outlined tomorrow to industrialists and bankers when they meet at the Confederation of British Industry headquarters in London.

The Government is ready to commit far more of its financial resources to back-up services for exporters in four target markets: Saudi Arabia, Iran, Libya and Algeria.

Although it recognizes the political sensitivities of grouping those countries together - especially because of Saudi fears about the possible spread of the Iranian revolution - Department of Trade and Industry specialists believe the four offer the best prospects.

A key part of the strategy is to raise substantially the level of British industrial investment in



Mr Norman Tebbit emphasizes on joint ventures.

Saudi Arabia. This plan was finally agreed after Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, visited the country at the beginning of this month.

Saudi Arabia will be the subject of tomorrow's CBI

conference, which will be chaired by a Midland Bank International director, Lord Selous, the Government's chief business adviser on Middle East affairs.

Private meetings with key industrialists are being arranged for the New Year. Mr Tebbit and his officials will stress the need to have at least two joint venture factories from each British industrial sector established in Saudi Arabia - although particular emphasis is to be put on petrochemical companies setting up downstream operations.

Senior Saudi ministers repeatedly told Mr Tebbit that their own private sector will increasingly provide the motor for economic growth. And they gave a warning that, with the big construction phase of development now over, future orders will be directed first to Saudi companies, then to joint ventures with foreigners and only as a last resort to overseas suppliers.

Confidence crumbling

Fears of a lower North Sea oil price and a crumbling pound sent investors scurrying for cover yesterday as confidence in the stock market continued to crumble.

The FT Index closed at its low for the day 3.1 down at 750.6 as the pound lost more than a cent on the foreign exchange to close at a new record low of \$1.4190.

Investors showed little inclination to establish new positions just two days into the long three week Christmas account and dealers were last night taking a gloomy view for the rest of 1983, looking for prices to drift gently lower on lack of support.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 750.6 down 3.1
FT 100: 82.43 up 0.08
FT All Share: 483.50 down 0.85
Birmingham 20,855
Datastream UEM Leaders Index: 95.33 down 0.08
New York Dow Jones Average (latest): 1259.65 down 1.94
Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 9,335.58 down 6.90
Hongkong Hang Seng Index: 862.81 up 6.07

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling
Index 82.0 down 1.15
DM 3.9325 down 0.0100
FF 11.9925 down 0.00125
Yen 335.50 down 3.25
Dollar
Index 130.8 up 0.4
DM 2.7682 up 0.152
NEW YORK CLOSE
Sterling \$1.4170
Dollar DM 2.7680
INTERNATIONAL
ECHO 57.5342
SDREX 725869

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9
Finance houses base rate 9 1/2
Discount market loans week fixed 8 1/2 3 month interbank 9 1/2-9 3/4
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 10 1/2-10 3/4
3 month DM 6 1/2-6 3/4
3 month Fr F13 1/2-13 1/4
US rates:
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9 1/2
Treasury 9 1/2-9 3/4 long bond 9 1/2-9 3/4

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$389.75 pm \$389.20
close \$389.00-\$389.75
(\$274.00-\$274.50)
New York (latest): \$389.50
Kruggerand (per coin): \$400.50-402.20 (\$282.25-283.25)
Sovereigns (new): \$91.25-\$92.25 (\$64.25-\$65.00)
Excludes VAT

INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK

Overseas boost doubles McCorquodale earnings

Joint ventures in South Africa and Brazil have again provided a significant improvement in the profits of McCorquodale, the security and specialist printer.

The contribution from associated companies more than doubled to £2.4m, helping the group to an 18 per cent rise in pretax profits to £7.3m in the 12 months to the end of September.

The figures also include what McCorquodale describes as an important but unqualified contribution from two American companies in which the company took an interest during the year.

Given the strong overseas performance, Britain, which accounts for 65 per cent of group profits, looks as though it had a flat year.

However, £600,000 has been charged above the line on trading profits in Britain to pay for redundancies.

And the company says that there are now mildly encouraging signs that markets for its business have been picking up.

So with the help of the overseas companies - which the group would like to represent 40 per cent of its pretax profits in about five years - McCorquodale notched up its seventh successive increase at the pretax level.

At the bottom line, the group has come out £55,000 in the black after revaluing overseas assets and deducting exchange gains and losses. Last year's comparable figure was a deficit of £906,000.

As a result retained earnings after paying an 11 per cent increase in the total dividend, came out at £3m, against £1.9m last year.

However, despite the positive flow, expansion plans and capital spending is beginning to reflect in higher borrowings on the balance sheet.

In 1981-82 bank loans and overdrafts rose from £4.1m to

£7.2m, which represented a 39 per cent gearing ratio. This year, the net debt to equity ratio has increased to 44 per cent.

McCorquodale has spent £10m on capital investment this year, and expects to spend £6m in its present financial year.

The shares yesterday eased 2p to 281p. The price has already discounted a profits increase and should have some way to climb given the present undemanding price earnings ratio.

Intasun

The holiday travel price war is about market share as numbers of travellers decline. Interim figures from Mr Harry Goodman's Intasun reflects the company's success in eroding the position of its main competitors, Thomson, the biggest, and Horizon, third after Intasun.

Pretax profits, from which the winter loss figures are subtracted, show a firm rise to £20m on turnover up from £104m to £140m.

The company looks like a group denying that a price war is taking place but gearing up for defence: cash holdings of £46m, no debt and buying in business. It held back its 1984 holiday brochure to prevent the competition from improving its 9 per cent price cuts.

A new division catering to the lowest end of the market was established and the North East-based Airways Holidays was bought. Mr Goodman continues to attack the problem of maintaining business in the winter and by early this month had raised bookings 50 per cent. But that will not reduce winter losses. Their are expected to exceed last year's £1.5m due to the summer acquisition and the introduction of the budget Lancaster Holidays.

Mr Goodman's forte is travel and, not surprisingly, the travel division carried a record

562,000 passengers though more importantly it increased the load factor from 93.4 per cent to 95.8 per cent.

Mr Goodman expects to increase market share next year from 14 per cent to 16 per cent and set a growth rate of 20 per cent. He claims the 9 per cent price cuts are balanced by currency gains and would not harm profits.

Mr Goodman said his "gut feeling" was that next year would be the best for three or four years. On that basis the interim dividend increase from 1.4p to 1.8p may not be overly generous. But if Mr Goodman's forecasts for next summer are borne out by bookings over the next three months the final is likely to be a pleasant surprise.

Meyer Int.

The results from Meyer International were bang on market expectation and confirm the high hopes broker analysts had for the reorganized and rationalized businesses of the leading timber groups, Meyer and International, which merged 18 months ago.

Pretax profits rose from £6.3m, made at the bottom of the timber trading cycle, to £16.1m on a turnover up from £161.6m to £280m. The interim is increased 10 per cent from 1.50p to 1.65p while earnings per share climb from 4.6p to 10.6p.

The company could not fully quantify the cost benefits from the merger but estimated them at about £3m to £4m.

The shares still reflect a very cautious, possibly unjustified, attitude to performance at 152p yielding 3.5. That is a very substantial discount on the sector as a whole and, given that the second-half is expected to perform as well as the first, there seems plenty of leeway for an increase in share price.

Economic commentary: Tim Congdon looks at the effect of lifting exchange controls

Why Britain's foreign nest-egg quadrupled

The North Sea nest-egg: How Britain's foreign assets have increased since 1979

| | Holdings at end of 4th qtr 1979 £m | 1st qtr 1983 £m | Change over the period £m |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Other financial institutions | 10,080 | 33,174 | |
| Overseas assets | 1,742 | 2,525 | |
| Overseas liabilities | 8,338 | 30,649 | +22,310 |
| Net overseas assets | 3,484 | 18,804 | +15,320 |
| Industrial and commercial companies | 34,547 | 58,184 | |
| Overseas assets | 29,171 | 29,380 | |
| Overseas liabilities | 3,476 | 18,804 | +15,328 |
| Net overseas assets | 3,311 | 7,385 | +4,074 |
| Personal sector | 48,038 | 98,743 | |
| Overseas assets | 30,912 | 41,905 | |
| Overseas liabilities | 17,126 | 56,838 | +39,712 |

Source: Financial Statistics, September 1983

could make additions in only two ways - by buying foreign securities from other British residents and by borrowing abroad to finance purchases. Not surprisingly, they had a strong pent-up demand for overseas assets.

The situation had changed radically at the end of the first quarter of this year. Other financial institutions had overseas assets of £33,174m and overseas liabilities of only £2,525m. Over the three years since the removal of exchange controls their net foreign assets had climbed by more than £22,000m to £30,649m.

Much of the increase reflected the large sums sent abroad after October 1979. Britain's portfolio investment overseas was £3,150m in 1980, £4,100m in 1981, £5,170m in 1982 and £1,760m in the first quarter of this year, a total of more than £15,000m, with non-bank financial institutions probably responsible for not less than £12,000m.

Clearly, there is a gap - of about £10,000m - between the increase in the value of institutions' foreign portfolios and their new investment. The gap measures the capital gains achieved for the customers, the British public, over the period.

This £10,000m addition to the nation's wealth is welcome, not only because it is a tidy sum of money, but also because it has not required any serious productive effort. Debtor countries around the world, should be drooling with envy.

Of course, some of the gains would have happened anyway. If exchange control had continued and fund managers had stayed in domestic markets, there would have been capital appreciation on the securities held at the end of 1979. But the potential for gain was increased enormously by exchange control abolition. Indeed, the Government's timing seems in retrospect to have been very well judged.

In October 1979 the pound was riding high on the foreign exchanges. Although it became more overvalued by January 1981, it has subsequently depreciated with few interruptions. The fall in the pound has increased the sterling value of foreign investments.

So fund managers acquired undervalued assets with overvalued pounds. It would be difficult to imagine a more ideal combination in international investment. The accumulation of a £30,000m overseas nest-egg by financial institutions and of a £60,000m nest-egg by the nation as a whole can be properly attributed to the correctness of official policy and to the astuteness of investors.

But honesty forces the recognition that neither would have counted for much without the bounty of the North Sea. Britain had a cumulative current account surplus between 1980 and 1982 of almost £15,000m. The surplus on oil over the period amounted to about

£8,000m. Without North Sea oil it is unlikely that so much foreign investment could have taken place. In effect, a lucky geographical accident has allowed Britain to resume its pre-1939 status of being a large international creditor.

There is a policy message here. In the late 1970s a public debate developed about the right use of North Sea tax revenues. There were two main schools of thought. One argued that the money should be directed to re-building Britain's "essential industrial base"; the other said that the North Sea bonus was temporary and should be directed to reducing the budget deficit.

The lobbyists for the "essential base" rarely explained in detail how the funds would be channelled to industries they deemed essential. But the rough idea seems to have been that the Government would set up a special national investment fund, which would make loans for the construction of blast-furnaces, aluminium smelters, shipyards, car plants and the like.

The assumption was presumably that these enterprises, no matter how dark, sordid and loss-making, would give a better eventual return than overseas portfolio investment.

It is surely fair comment that the managers of the pension funds, life offices and unit trusts have done a good job, while the intended recipients of national investment fund money have not. The fund managers' very profitable record has been possible because the Government used North Sea taxes to cut the budget deficit. It therefore had to sell less public sector debt, enabling institutional cash flow to be diverted to overseas equities and bonds.

In coming decades Britain's substantial foreign assets will yield a steadily increasing income which will protect the balance of payments as oil exports fall. There should no longer be any real debate about exchange controls and the deployment of North Sea revenues.

The author is economics partner of stockbroker, L. Messel & Co.

COMMODITIES

| LONDON COMMODITY PRICES | | COCOA | | 1915-1919 | | 1919-1924 | | 1924-1929 | | 1929-1934 | | 1934-1939 | |
|---------------------------------------|--|-------|------|-----------|------|-----------|------|-----------|------|-----------|------|-----------|------|
| Rubber in £2 per ton | | Dec | 1983 | 1915 | 1919 | 1919 | 1924 | 1924 | 1929 | 1929 | 1934 | 1934 | 1939 |
| Coffee, arabica, in pounds per 100 lb | | Nov | 1983 | 1915 | 1919 | 1919 | 1924 | 1924 | 1929 | 1929 | 1934 | 1934 | 1939 |
| On oil in US \$ per barrel | | Oct | 1983 | 1915 | 1919 | 1919 | 1924 | 1924 | 1929 | 1929 | 1934 | 1934 | 1939 |
| | | Nov | 1983 | 1915 | 1919 | 1919 | 1924 | 1924 | 1929 | 1929 | 1934 | 1934 | 1939 |

| COFFEE | | SUGAR | | COPPER | | ZINC | | NICKEL | | ALUMINUM | | LEAD | | TIN | | SILVER | | GOLD | |
|--------|------|-------|------|--------|------|------|------|--------|------|----------|------|------|------|-----|------|--------|------|------|------|
| Dec | 1983 | Dec | 1983 | Dec | 1983 | Dec | 1983 | Dec | 1983 | Dec | 1983 | Dec | 1983 | Dec | 1983 | Dec | 1983 | Dec | 1983 |
| Jan | 1984 | Jan | 1984 | Jan | 1984 | Jan | 1984 | Jan | 1984 | Jan | 1984 | Jan | 1984 | Jan | 1984 | Jan | 1984 | Jan | 1984 |
| Feb | 1984 | Feb | 1984 | Feb | 1984 | Feb | 1984 | Feb | 1984 | Feb | 1984 | Feb | 1984 | Feb | 1984 | Feb | 1984 | Feb | 1984 |
| Mar | 1984 | Mar | 1984 | Mar | 1984 | Mar | 1984 | Mar | 1984 | Mar | 1984 | Mar | 1984 | Mar | 1984 | Mar | 1984 | Mar | 1984 |
| Apr | 1984 | Apr | 1984 | Apr | 1984 | Apr | 1984 | Apr | 1984 | Apr | 1984 | Apr | 1984 | Apr | 1984 | Apr | 1984 | Apr | 1984 |
| May | 1984 | May | 1984 | May | 1984 | May | 1984 | May | 1984 | May | 1984 | May | 1984 | May | 1984 | May | 1984 | May | 1984 |
| Jun | 1984 | Jun | 1984 | Jun | 1984 | Jun | 1984 | Jun | 1984 | Jun | 1984 | Jun | 1984 | Jun | 1984 | Jun | 1984 | Jun | 1984 |
| Jul | 1984 | Jul | 1984 | Jul | 1984 | Jul | 1984 | Jul | 1984 | Jul | 1984 | Jul | 1984 | Jul | 1984 | Jul | 1984 | Jul | 1984 |
| Aug | 1984 | Aug | 1984 | Aug | 1984 | Aug | 1984 | Aug | 1984 | Aug | 1984 | Aug | 1984 | Aug | 1984 | Aug | 1984 | Aug | 1984 |
| Sep | 1984 | Sep | 1984 | Sep | 1984 | Sep | 1984 | Sep | 1984 | Sep | 1984 | Sep | 1984 | Sep | 1984 | Sep | 1984 | Sep | 1984 |
| Oct | 1984 | Oct | 1984 | Oct | 1984 | Oct | 1984 | Oct | 1984 | Oct | 1984 | Oct | 1984 | Oct | 1984 | Oct | 1984 | Oct | 1984 |
| Nov | 1984 | Nov | 1984 | Nov | 1984 | Nov | 1984 | Nov | 1984 | Nov | 1984 | Nov | 1984 | Nov | 1984 | Nov | 1984 | Nov | 1984 |
| Dec | 1984 | Dec | 1984 | Dec | 1984 | Dec | 1984 | Dec | 1984 | Dec | 1984 | Dec | 1984 | Dec | 1984 | Dec | 1984 | Dec | 1984 |

| Year ended 30th September | | |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------|
| | 1983 | 1982 |
| Profits after tax | £000's | |
| Investment Income | 715 | 648 |
| Sales of investments | 717 | 722 |
| Earnings | p per share | |
| Investment Income | 4.61 | 4.18 |
| Sales of investments | 4.62 | 4.66 |
| Dividend | 3.30 | 3.00 |
| Assets | 120.18 | 87.63 |

Meyer International INTERIM STATEMENT

| Unaudited Group Results (on Historical Cost Basis) | | 6 months to 30.9.83 £'000s | 6 months to 30.9.82 £'000s | Year to 31.3.83 £'000s |
|---|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Turnover | | <u>279,772</u> | <u>261,672</u> | <u>536,161</u> |
| Trading Profit | | <u>19,388</u> | <u>11,372</u> | <u>29,196</u> |
| Profits on sales of tangible assets | | <u>795</u> | <u>661</u> | <u>1,610</u> |
| | | <u>20,183</u> | <u>12,033</u> | <u>30,806</u> |
| Net interest payable | | <u>3,484</u> | <u>5,688</u> | <u>9,976</u> |
| | | <u>16,699</u> | <u>6,345</u> | <u>20,830</u> |
| Share of results of related companies | | <u>225</u> | <u>—</u> | <u>767</u> |
| Profit before taxation | | <u>16,924</u> | <u>6,345</u> | <u>21,597</u> |
| Taxation | | <u>6,690</u> | <u>1,950</u> | <u>3,612</u> |
| Profit after taxation | | <u>10,234</u> | <u>4,395</u> | <u>14,985</u> |
| Extraordinary items (net) | | <u>167</u> | <u>—</u> | <u>(4,698)</u> |
| Profit attributable to members | | <u>10,401</u> | <u>4,395</u> | <u>10,087</u> |
| Earnings per Ordinary share | | <u>10.6p</u> | <u>4.6p</u> | <u>15.5p</u> |
| | | <u>£'000s</u> | <u>£'000s</u> | <u>£'000s</u> |
| Ordinary dividends—Cost | | <u>1,591</u> | <u>1,446</u> | <u>3,615</u> |
| Amount per share | | <u>1.55p</u> | <u>1.50p</u> | <u>3.75p</u> |

The Chairman, Mr Ronald Groves, comments: Trading conditions for the first half year have been good. Although for the Construction Industry as a whole activity has remained dull the housebuilding sector, together with Repair, Maintenance and Improvement, has been much more active. Timber producers throughout the world have been increasing prices to restore profitability, resulting in rising import prices in the U.K. In these circumstances we have been able to improve trading margins. Manufacturing units have operated nearer to capacity. The contribution from overseas companies has been better with good results from North America, but as a whole returns in both the Netherlands and Australia are still below acceptable levels due to difficult trading conditions. The second half year is continuing somewhat similarly to the first and, subject to the usual qualifications, is expected to produce satisfactory profits. The profits now reported arise from the improved conditions and the benefits from rationalisation following the merger. Your Directors have declared an interim dividend of 1.65p (1.50p), which will be paid on 31st January 1984 to those members on the Register at 12th January 1984.

Meyer International plc
Villiers House 41/47 Strand
London WC2N 5JG

| LONDON METAL EXCHANGE | | LONDON GOLD FUTURES MARKET | | LONDON INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL | |
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| LONDON GOLD FUTURES MARKET | | LONDON INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL | |
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| Nov | 1984 | Nov | 1984 |
| Dec | 1984 | Dec | 1984 |

| |
|----------------------------------|
| Chapman Industries |
| Half-year to 1.10.83 |
| Pretax profit £311,000 (£44,000) |
| Stated earnings 9.31p (6.37p) |
| Turnover £7.3m (£5.8m) |
| Net interim dividend 2.2p (2p) |

| |
|-------------------------------|
| Plaxtons (GB) |
| Year to 2.10.83 |
| Pretax profit £2.9m (£1.09m) |
| Stated earnings 27.4p (13.2p) |
| Turnover £32.5m (£24.8m) |

ABUDHABI AMMAN ATHENS BAHRAIN BANGKOK BEIRUT BOMBAY
CAIRO COLOMBO DELHI DHAKHAN DOHA DUBAI HONG KONG
JEDDAH KARACHI KUWAIT LABNAJA LONDON MANILA MUSCAT
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CRICKET: CAPTAIN'S NINTH TEST CENTURY

Hughes sees Australia through to a draw

From Ian Brayshaw, Adelaide

Kim Hughes dug deep into his reservoir of skill and perseverance to see his team through to a draw in the third Test against Pakistan at the Adelaide Oval yesterday. The captain, who had been first in the opener, then by an equally resolute Border, Hughes produced perhaps the finest innings of his distinguished career.

Australia had begun the last day at 94 for two, still 65 runs behind Pakistan's first-innings lead and in considerable danger of defeat, but when play ended had fought their way along to safety with a score of 310 for seven.

The Pakistani spinner, Qadir, threatened to set up victory by exploiting his previous dominance over Hughes and a worn fifth-day wicket. But the Australian captain had all the answers and his ninth Test century, which earned him the Man-of-the-Match award, was a masterpiece of concentration and seized opportunities. It was not his most free-flowing effort with the bat for Australia, but it was a personal triumph and a victory against the odds.

Clearly he was not picking Qadir's splendid display of leg-spinners and wrong 'uns, but he dug out the good balls and pounced like a cat on bad ones. His watchful century, made in 263 minutes from 240 balls, included a six off Qadir over square leg, early in the day, and nine fours. It was a memorable innings, but without the support from Phillips and Border it may have been made in vain.

Phillips, a fine century maker in his maiden innings in the first Australia's best post-war batsmen. Border scored 66 on top of an unbeaten 117 in the first innings. What a series be-

has had. His other innings have been 32 and 118 but he possesses a tight technique and is a powerful destroyer of the ball.

After Phillips became Qadir's only victim of the day with the score on 121 and with Australia still 38 runs in arrears. Border joined Hughes to frustrate the Pakistani thrust for a victory that would have levelled the series. The pair put on 95 and generally made light of the tricky conditions that prevailed.

Greg Chappell came into this game on his original home ground needing 84 runs to pass Sir Donald Bradman's Australian Test aggregate record of 6,996 runs, but in two innings only managed to narrow the gap by 10 runs.

His place at the crease was taken by another old campaigner, Marsh, and with some bold hitting he put the game right off. He was felled by a short-pitched delivery from Azem. Marsh attempted to hook the ball, missed and was struck on the left cheek. An X-ray examination later revealed he has a fractured bone, but he has not ruled out of the fourth Test which begins in Melbourne on Boxing Day.

Pakistan tried hard to build on the initiative they enjoyed at the start of play, but in the end it was a mixture of good batting and flat wicket which kept them at bay. Qadir and his spin partner, Nazir, whiskered through their overs - 40 in all of them in the first two-hour and although they have honest endeavour it just was not enough.

Qadir was always the man to fear, when he landed in the

rough he really made the ball bite, but he just could not find the edge of the bat or the gap he needed to break through. He finished the game with two for 132 and the man who came to Australia to offer most of the "thunder down under" has just seven wickets for 461 runs from the three Tests so far.

Nazir has only one wicket for the cost of 217 runs and is certain to lose his place in the side to Imran, who has been cleared to play in the Melbourne Test. Should Imran return to the attack with some semblance of form, Pakistan, now that their batsmen have found their feel, could win one of the two remaining games.

Australia First Innings 453 (K. C. Wicket 117 not out, Azem Hafeez 5 for 187).

Second Innings 310 (K. C. Wicket 117 not out, Azem Hafeez 5 for 187).

Pakistan First Innings 310 (K. C. Wicket 117 not out, Azem Hafeez 5 for 187).

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Hughes: personal triumph Hick sticks and saves Zimbabwe

Colombo (AFP) - The four-day match between Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe, which was a tame draw here yesterday as Zimbabwe hit back after an early collapse.

Zimbabwe, who were struggling at 35 for three overs, found the pitch held no hidden errors when the overhauled batsmen, Pym and Curran, put on 64 runs for the fourth wicket in 92 minutes. Later Hick and Houghton shared a 93-run stand for the seventh wicket that sealed the game's fate.

Zimbabwe First Innings 201 (D. L. Houghton 52, A. Pym 48, S. Curran 48, D. Hick 48, D. L. Houghton 52, A. Pym 48, S. Curran 48, D. Hick 48).

Sri Lanka First Innings 231 (S. M. Muralidharan 65, A. J. Trescothick 5 for 50, S. M. Muralidharan 65, A. J. Trescothick 5 for 50).

Sri Lanka Second Innings 231 (S. M. Muralidharan 65, A. J. Trescothick 5 for 50, S. M. Muralidharan 65, A. J. Trescothick 5 for 50).

Champions set for happy returns

By Dick Hinder

Michael Dickinson plans the return of his champions, Bregawn and Badsword Boy, at Haydock Park today, but the meeting is subject to a 7.0 inspection after the clerk of the course, reported: "The thaw is going nicely, but there is still snow on the course." There is also a precautionary 7.30 inspection at Catterick.

Bregawn, who led that amazing Dickinson five-horse charge in last season's Cheltenham Gold Cup, makes his reappearance in the Whitbread Chase, in which the Harwood trainer also saddles Right-hand Man and Prince Rowan. Dickinson expects Bregawn to prove the pick of his trio. He said: "Bregawn is very well. He is as fit as we can get him at home, but obviously will be better for a race. He will also appreciate the softer going."

Dickinson suggested that it could be a close race with Little Owl receiving 8lb from Bregawn. "At his best Little Owl will be a big danger to my fellow, Jim Wilson, his owner rider, said that his horse was fit and well and had got over all his problems, but it's what happens on the racecourse that counts." Little Owl, born of the 1981 Cheltenham Gold Cup, beat Bregawn by ten lengths when the two nine-year-olds met in a match for the Tommy Whittle Chase last year. But Dickinson disregards Bregawn's performance that day as he hurt his shoulder during the race.

Right-hand Man was one of Dickinson's sleepchasing finds last season, winning five of his eight races including the Greenall Whitley Chase over today's course and distance. The six-year-old disappointed on his seasonal reappearance when he was pulled up in Lucky Vane's Warwick race last month, and may prove a bigger factor in the New Year. The former Irish hurdler, Prince Rowan, ended last season on a high note, winning four novice chases with great fluency and showing that he has the stamina to last three miles.

Graham Thorner runs his exciting prospect Get Out Of Me Way, an entry for the Welsh Grand National. This eight-year-old made the most of Raenac's fall three out to triumph in Doncaster's Yorkshire Handicap Chase in January, but should not cope with Bregawn.

Badsword Boy, last season's emphatic winner of the Queen Mother Champion Chase, should be capable of successfully conceding weight to Peter Easterby's Claydine in the Boston Pit Chase.

Harry Bell has had a remarkable season so far, sending out 26 winners from his Hawick stable, and his nine-year-old Boardmans Special may add to the tally by outstaying Neville Crump's dual scorer Repington in the Waterloo Hurdle.

Clay builds on a firm foundation

By Dick Hinder

The Arundel trainer Tony Clay and his wife, Lydia, are certainly the combination to follow at Plumpton these days. Two runners yesterday brought them yet another victory by Alghaderry Run, her fifth of the season, and a neck second by Viewed Away. Last month, Alghaderry Run helped them to a Plumpton treble that earned Mr. Clay the award for Landed Lady of the Year.

Alghaderry Run, came as they were down Bash Street Kid close home after a battle from the second last in the Cheltenham Cup. Mr. Clay plays a big part in the training of the horses that carry her colours, rides out twice a day, and leads them up at the races. She said, "Alghaderry run is so easy, like a lamb, she's the stable pet."

Tony Clay said that when the handicapper finally catches up with Alghaderry Run, the mare may be switched to hunter chasing. A yearling-brother, he has been in his string, two of them hunter-chasers and another still waiting for softer ground. The four that have won this season have collected a total of nine races.

Viewed Away tried hard to give weight all round in the Sussex Restaurants Novices Chase, but this time the photo went against the Clays by a neck, Dargal refusing to accept defeat and Anthony Webber's strong driving.

The surprise of the day came when the outsider Goldyke led over the last three flights in the December Handicap Hurdle, to hold off Josh Gifford's strongly fancied Starling, born 20-1.

Starling last season, but then fell twice, so I brought her back to hurdling for a spell". Churches Green, 13-8 favourite for the Ditchling Novices Hurdle, bought her to be a chaser, and she's a good race horse, but then fell twice, so I brought her back to hurdling for a spell".

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Grand National. This eight-year-old made the most of Raenac's fall three out to triumph in Doncaster's Yorkshire Handicap Chase in January, but should not cope with Bregawn.

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Haydock Park

Going: Soft (7.30 inspection).

Total: 2.0, 3.0, 4.0, 5.0, 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0, 11.0, 12.0, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0, 17.0, 18.0, 19.0, 20.0, 21.0, 22.0, 23.0, 24.0, 25.0, 26.0, 27.0, 28.0, 29.0, 30.0, 31.0, 32.0, 33.0, 34.0, 35.0, 36.0, 37.0, 38.0, 39.0, 40.0, 41.0, 42.0, 43.0, 44.0, 45.0, 46.0, 47.0, 48.0, 49.0, 50.0, 51.0, 52.0, 53.0, 54.0, 55.0, 56.0, 57.0, 58.0, 59.0, 60.0, 61.0, 62.0, 63.0, 64.0, 65.0, 66.0, 67.0, 68.0, 69.0, 70.0, 71.0, 72.0, 73.0, 74.0, 75.0, 76.0, 77.0, 78.0, 79.0, 80.0, 81.0, 82.0, 83.0, 84.0, 85.0, 86.0, 87.0, 88.0, 89.0, 90.0, 91.0, 92.0, 93.0, 94.0, 95.0, 96.0, 97.0, 98.0, 99.0, 100.0, 101.0, 102.0, 103.0, 104.0, 105.0, 106.0, 107.0, 108.0, 109.0, 110.0, 111.0, 112.0, 113.0, 114.0, 115.0, 116.0, 117.0, 118.0, 119.0, 120.0, 121.0, 122.0, 123.0, 124.0, 125.0, 126.0, 127.0, 128.0, 129.0, 130.0, 131.0, 132.0, 133.0, 134.0, 135.0, 136.0, 137.0, 138.0, 139.0, 140.0, 141.0, 142.0, 143.0, 144.0, 145.0, 146.0, 147.0, 148.0, 149.0, 150.0, 151.0, 152.0, 153.0, 154.0, 155.0, 156.0, 157.0, 158.0, 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Extending time for tenant's application

Appel emphasised that the Court of Appeal had to adhere strictly to the timetable prescribed by the 1936 Act and Order 8, rule 35 of the Rules and that an extension of time for service of an originating application was not to be allowed unless the court was satisfied that there were exceptional circumstances relating to the failure to serve in due time.

But the 1936 rule contained the following words which were not in the 1938 rule: "Where reasonable efforts have been made to serve the summons within the said period and service has not been effected . . ." So the situation in the present case was not the same as in *Baxendale*.

The parties' agreement to extend the time limits meant that those time limits could not be adhered to. In those circumstances, the judge had an unfettered discretion to refuse whether he should extend the time. The limits of discretion recognized in *Baxendale* did not therefore apply here.

Having regard to the continuing negotiations and all the other circumstances, his Lordship did not think that the landlords would be prejudiced by the extension of time.

Lord Justice O'Connor agreed:

Solicitors: Gammons for Southall & Co. Solihull; Sumal Cressley & Co. Leicester.

The question arose whether the "act complained of" within three months of which a complaint had to be made, included the presentation of the Race Relations Act 1976, to the place when the notice of dismissal was given or when the employment terminated.

The court complained of "was the termination of employment and the effective date was the date a man found himself out of a job rather than the date he was given notice, when the application was made in time.

The industrial tribunal had refused to exercise their power to extend time under section 68 (6), in order to hear the respondent's argument to the industrial tribunal on that matter. It was contrary to the rules of natural justice for a tribunal to deal with such a point without inviting submissions.

ing actions

partnership proceedings transferred from the Chancery Division to the Family Division.

LORD JUSTICE CUMMING-BRUCE said that it was always desirable that a case be achieved without injustice to either party that one court should exercise jurisdiction over all financial claims and claims for property adjustment between husband and wife.

Where such claims were made, under the 1973 Act or under the Law of Property Act 1925, it would ordinarily be right that proceedings should be transferred to the Family Division should be transferred to the Family Division.

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Protest at Bill's search powers

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

There are loopholes in the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill that would allow the search for and seizure of confidential records and documents despite government undertakings, the Law Society said yesterday.

The records and documents include legal, medical, and journalistic material.

The protection given under the Bill to confidential records would not necessarily apply when search warrants were issued under other statutes, the society said.

Further, immunity was granted to privileged legal material only if it was in the hands of certain people, a memorandum on the Bill by the society added: "This will not do. Privileged material, however legitimately held, must be given protection."

The society said that it had been pressing the Home Office to close the loopholes, so far without success.

The society also said that powers wholly disproportionate to the crime might be used in an investigation because of the Bill. The theft or burglary of small sums of money may constitute a "serious arrestable offence" a definition that can allow the police to use extra powers.

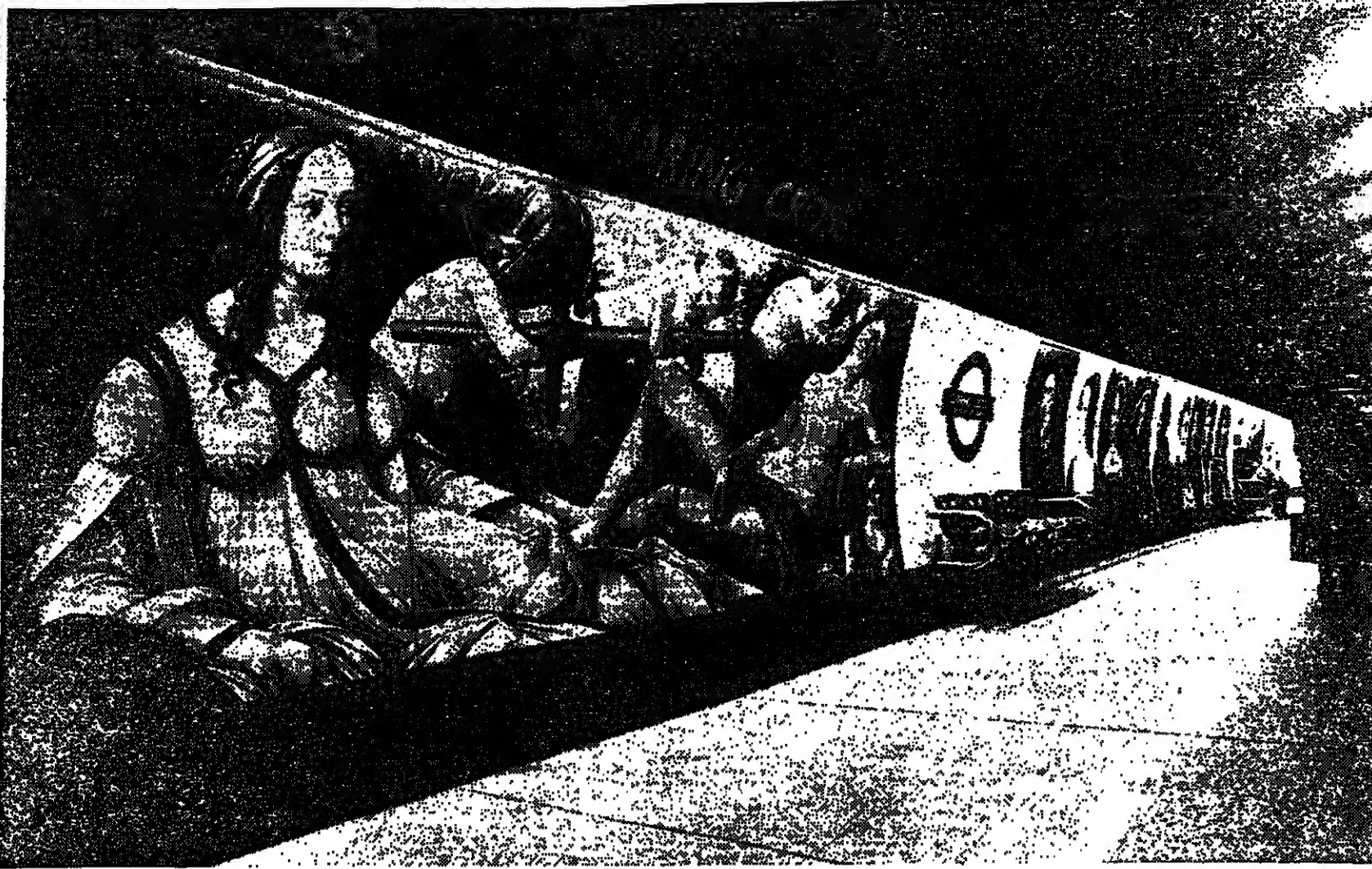
The theft or burglary becomes a "serious arrestable offence" when it has led or is likely to lead to serious financial loss to a person. The loss of even a small sum of money may be considered serious for the victim, so triggering off the extra powers, the society said.

The powers include: setting up a road check; entry and search for evidence of a serious arrestable offence; delay in exercise of the right to have someone informed of arrest; delay in access to legal advice; and power to take intimate body samples.

Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk, Labour MP for Knowsley, North, agreed with the Government that the police should have powers to set up road blocks but he said that they were disruptive for ordinary citizens.

The police should be able to retain the trust, confidence and credibility of the public. That would be lost, Mr Kilroy-Silk said, if road checks were set up for trivial offences.

Extra mural studies on the Underground



By Michael Bailey
Transport Editor

Botticelli's "Venus and Mars" in a 10ft-high blow-up provides a striking backdrop for passengers on London Transport's refurbished Bakerloo Line platform at Charing Cross, which was opened yesterday.

Other murals reproduced on resilient melamine panels from the neighbouring National Gallery and National Portrait Gallery include portraits of Lord Nelson, William Shakespeare, Henry VIII and Lord Byron.

The 350 feet of murals represent a new departure for London Transport whose aesthetic skill had been admired worldwide since the 1930s.

They are part of a £3m facelift at Charing Cross that includes a new ticket hall beneath Trafalgar Square.

It is the first major scheme in a £60m programme, funded by the Greater London Council, which includes improvements at Oxford Circus, Piccadilly Circus, Tottenham Court Road, Bond Street, Baker Street and Holborn.

Murray's future at stake over NGA repudiation

Continued from page 1
ing which ended early yesterday.

The NGA national council, which took less than one hour to suspend today's strike, was particularly aggrieved by Mr Murray's action because it believed that the union "is fighting a battle for the whole of the trade union movement".

A statement after the meeting said that members of the national council were "confused and concerned" by Mr Murray's statement. Mr Wade spoke to the TUC general secretary by telephone yesterday to ask that an NGA delegation should be allowed to address the general council.

A further meeting of the NGA national council is planned for tomorrow to hear a report of today's meeting and to plan the union's next step in the closed shop dispute.

Mr Wade said last night that there were three forms of action the union could take: reimposition of the 24-hour strike, a prolonged strike, or reintroduction of mass picketing at Mr Shah's plant.

The thrust of the union's action will depend much of today's TUC general council decision, although Mr Wade said that the NGA remained committed to winning the dispute with Mr Shah and the reinstatement of the dismissed six *Stockport Messenger* typesetters.

NGA leaders were confident of winning general council support and their case will be presented by Mr Tony Dubbins, general secretary-designate, if the NGA delegation is allowed to address today's meeting.

The TUC is seeking to promote an urgent resumption of talks between the parties. Cost of strikes, page 2

US and Israel shell Lebanese coast

Continued from page 1

"He demands the protection of the United Nations," the spokesman said. "Then he demands the protection of Greece, then that of France, then that of Italy, then that of Saudi Arabia and Syria. In fact, all he wants is the information and press euphoria about his departure from Tripoli."

The Syrian Government meanwhile staged huge anti-American demonstrations through the streets of Damascus - like the mass demonstrations in Iran three years ago, the crowds carried posters proclaiming "Death to America" - but armed Syrian security police cordoned off the northern suburbs where the American Embassy compound is located.

Earlier in the day, the growing pattern of urban guerrilla warfare in west Beirut

claimed the life of a French paratrooper in the multinational force after his patrol - driving down the Muslim *corniche* Mazra - came under sub machine-gun fire from at least five directions.

It was one of the most carefully planned ambushes of its kind in west Beirut for many weeks and one report said that gunmen also fired from a fast-moving Mercedes car that raced away down a narrow lane after the attack.

● JERUSALEM: According to a terse communiqué issued by the military command here, the Israeli gunboats reported accurate hits along the coastal road south of Beirut (Christopher Walker writes).

Military sources said that artillery fire had been returned against Israeli ships from the shore, but claimed there had been no Israeli casualties.

Kuwait crackdown, page 8

Frank Johnson in the Commons

The sticky ideology of glue sniffing

Mr Neil Kinnock, in a surprise move, suddenly started asking questions of the Prime Minister yesterday.

Admittedly, he rose to question her four times and it was always the same question. But in the past those four interventions would have been laid end to end.

All last week Mr Kinnock was adversely criticized for not saying enough about the NGA dispute and the disruption of Brent council's proceedings by leaving demonstrators and for saying too much about safer topics such as Lebanon and nuclear war.

But the topic he opted for yesterday was the NGA dispute Mr Kinnock perhaps having chosen the moment at which the rest of the House had got bored with it.

It was left to Mr Gareth Wardell, the young Labour member for Gower, to uphold the reputation of Wales as a world centre of prolixity. He asked whether the Prime Minister would "undertake to read last week's report by an anonymous group of Welsh HMIs (Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools) entitled *Home-School Links*, and whether she considers this report is fatuous and completely lacking in substance, detail and academic rigour."

Where was all this leading, we asked ourselves. Fatuous, complacent, unadmitted and academically unrigorous the report may well be, but what was it about? "... failing to give guidance to parents on the crucial issues..." Mr Wardell lifted on.

At that stage of the question, the game could have gone either way. Mr Wardell could have been asking about contraception for the under-15s, corporal punishment, selection, or indeed the NGA dispute. But there was all to play for. Mr Wardell continued: "... on the crucial issues of glue-sniffing, underage drinking and smoking."

He concluded by demanding of the Prime Minister that she ensure that in future Her Majesty's Inspectors were "more suitably and sensibly employed". The trigger phrase in Mr Wardell's question was glue-sniffing. That seems to be this week's cause for concern. But it is still not clear which party stands to gain from the issue. Mrs Thatcher will be a hard woman to beat as a hammer of the sniffers. And

it was not clear that Mr Wardell had got his party's line right on the matter.

If one understood him correctly, he seemed to be pinning the blame for sniffing on Her Majesty's Inspectors. The correct line surely is that glue-sniffing is caused by unemployment and "cuts", it being the only pleasure left to the young under Thatcherism - the cocaine of the people, as Marx would have put it. From his pinning, Mr Wardell's question could just as easily have been asked by a Tory backbencher having links with Moral Re-orientation or by Mrs Whitehouse.

For most Labour members that was no fun at all. Fortunately, Mr Dennis Skinner, the Labour member for Bolsover and the party theoretician, was on hand yesterday to place glue-sniffing in its ideological context.

Mr Skinner countered with a smile: "Glue sniffing? What forces? That's the problem. Selling glue to the highest bidder." Party functionaries throughout the country had been given guidance.

The Prime Minister told Mr Wardell that the inspectors were doing "a very good job". Their work "is almost universally welcomed". "On glue-sniffing," she added, "the Government will be making a statement later. We are watching the Scottish case closely." She seemed determined that this one was not going to be pinned on capitalists.

Probably she will make sure that the permissive society takes the rap, in which case the issue could cause trouble for Mr Roy Jenkins.

Later in Prime Minister's questions, Mr Laurie Bayn, the Labour member for Brent South and a figure from the old respectable wing of the party, intervened to put the record straight on the Brent disturbances. He had tried to do so at the last Prime Minister's questions but time had run out and, despite his protests, the chair prevented him from doing so. So he had five days to brood about it.

"I was at that meeting," he said. He did not condone the violence. But there was "no rent-a-mob". Many of those present were "from the Methodist Church". There were also "old-age pensioners". That made it Britain's first riot by Wesleyite senior citizens.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Queen opens Newham Hospital, 10.20. St Bartholomew's Church Centre, 11.05; and then the Interpretative Centre, Passmore Edwards Museum, East Ham, 12 noon, and later attends a Concert arranged by Motability at St James's Palace, 6.30.

The Duke of Edinburgh attends a dinner given by the Margaret Pyke Memorial Trust at the Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High Street, W8 7.30.

Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother attends a Reception at the London Library, St James's Square, SW1, 6.45.

Princess Anne, President, the Save the Children Fund, attends a Fashion Show organized by the Arab Women's Council Emergency Relief at the Savoy Hotel, London, 8.

Prince Andrew attends a Charity Premiere of the film *New Year* again, in aid of the London Federation of Boys' Clubs, the Bowles Outdoor Pursuits Centre and the Variety Club of Great Britain at the Warner Theatre, Leicester Square, 7.50.

Britain at the Warner Theatre, Leicester Square, 7.50.

Princess Margaret undertakes engagements in Cardiff on behalf of Barnardo's, of which Her Royal Highness is President, visits Day Centre in Ely, West Cardiff, 3; and office in Newport Road, 3.40; and later attends a gala performance of *Humpty Dumpty* at the New Theatre, 6.45.

Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, attends a Carol Service, organized by Northamptonshire Charitable Appeals Trust at Oundle Parish Church, 6.25.

The Duke of Kent, Chairman of the United Kingdom Committee of European Music Year, 1985, will attend a Committee Meeting at the Arts Council, 105 Piccadilly, W1, 10.25.

Princess Alexandra presents the 1983 *Woman's Own* "Children of Courage" awards in Westminster Abbey, 10.55.

New exhibitions
The Thrift Needlewoman; household needlework during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. E. M. Flint Gallery, Walsall Museum and Art Gallery, Lichfield Street, Walsall, Mon to Fri 10 to 6, Sat 10 to 4.45, (until Jan 21).

Ellie Weisler (1829-1918); watercolours, Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum, The King's House, 65 The Close, Salisbury, Wiltshire; Mon to Sat 10.30 to 4, (until Feb 4).

Rail images through the lens, featuring more than 100 years of photography, Royal Photographic Society, The Octagon, Milton Street, Bath; Mon to Sat 10 to 4.45 (until Feb 4).

Talks, lectures
Small boat illustrators, by Adrian Celler, Laing Art Gallery, Highnam Place, Newcastle upon Tyne, 12.30. Agriculture and science at Edinburgh - past, present and future; valedictory lecture by Professor N. F. Robertson, Lecture Theatre E, Edinburgh School of Agriculture, West Main Road, Edinburgh, 5.15 (admission free, but by ticket only, from the Services School of Agriculture, 031 667 1011).

Music
Concert by the Philip Jones Brass Ensemble, Sutton Place, Guildford, Surrey, 7.30.

Northern Sinfonia Christmas Concert with the Cambridge Sinfonia and the Sinfonia Chorus, St Cuthbert's Church, West Walls, Carlisle, 7.30.

Piano recital by Norma Fisher, City Art Gallery, The Headrow, Leeds, 1.05.

Concert by Syd Lawrence and his orchestra, St David's Hall, Cardiff, 7.30.

Concert of Christmas music by The Sixteen, Ashby Parish Church, Theatre E, Leicestershire, 7.30.

The Hexagon Christmas Concert, The Hexagon, Queen's Walk, Reading, 7.30.

Carol services
Rotary carol service with the Silver Ring Choir, Bath Abbey, Bath, 7.

Civil Service carol service, 1.10, and police family carol service, 7, both at St Ann's Church, Northamptonshire. Charitable Appeals Trust candlelight carol service, St Peter's Church, Oundle, Northamptonshire, 6.30.

New books - hardback

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:
Dante's Divine Comedy, by Dante Alighieri, trans. by John G. Saxe (Penguin, £20).
John Galsworthy, by Jeanette L. Savona (Macmillan, £13).
John Galsworthy, by Jeanette L. Savona (Macmillan, £13).
Josephus, by Tessa Rajak (Duckworth, £19.50).
Nuclear Radiation, Risks and Benefits, by Edward E. Pochin (Oxford, £7.50).
The Companion to Gaelic Scotland, edited by Derrick S. Thomson (Blackwell, £26).
The Macmillan Student Encyclopedia of Sociology, by Michael Mann (Macmillan, £20, paperback £7.95).
The Politics of France, by Philip John Stead (Collins Macmillan, £12.95).
Resurfacing, by Nicholas Phillips (Edinburgh University Press, £10).
Words, An illustrated history of western languages, edited by Victor Stevenson (Macdonald, £11.95).

Roads

Midlands: A61: Traffic signals controlling traffic at Clay Cross, Derbyshire. A45: Road works at Fosse Cross, Warwickshire, between Coventry and Daventry. A34: Roadworks south of Shipston on Stour at Tiddington, Warwickshire; delays.

Wales and West: A4061: Single-lane traffic with temporary traffic lights between Hirwain and Tynewydd (Rhigos Mountain Road), 8.25. Resurfacing on both carriageways between Junction 26 (Wellington) and 27 (Tiverton), A40: Resurfacing between Bancyfelin and Carmarthen; temporary traffic lights, diversion, delays.

North: A617: Roadworks with traffic lights, at Bransley Vale, Derbyshire. A167: Delays caused by footpath repairs at Chiltern, on Durham. A66: Widening and strengthening of bridge at Eden Lodge, north west of Appleby, Cumbria; single lane traffic controlled by traffic lights.

Scotland: A1: Carriageway reconstruction, east of Tranent, East Lothian. Single lane traffic, with lights. A74: Barrier repairs at Glenannan Bridge, between Crawford and Abington, Lanarkshire; both outside lanes closed. A759: Road realignment along Dundonald Road, Kilmarnock; single lane traffic with traffic lights.

Information supplied by the AA.

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| | Buy | Sell |
| Australia \$ | 1.64 | 1.54 |
| Austria Sch | 28.95 | 27.35 |
| Belgium F | 83.75 | 79.75 |
| Canada \$ | 1.84 | 1.77 |
| Denmark Kr | 14.82 | 14.12 |
| Finland Mk | 8.72 | 8.32 |
| France F | 12.32 | 11.82 |
| Germany DM | 4.08 | 3.89 |
| Greece Dr | 162.00 | 152.00 |
| Hong Kong \$ | 11.50 | 10.90 |
| Italy Lira | 2455.00 | 2345.00 |
| Japan Yen | 353.00 | 335.00 |
| Netherlands Gld | 11.55 | 10.95 |
| Portugal Esc | 195.00 | 185.00 |
| Spain Ptas | 1.82 | 1.69 |
| Sweden Kr | 12.50 | 11.40 |
| Switzerland Fr | 3.39 | 3.12 |
| USA \$ | 1.47 | 1.42 |
| Yugoslavia Dnr | 218.00 | 208.00 |

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Do not apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Retail Price Index: 340.7.
London: The FT Index closed down 3.1 at 750.6.

The papers

The Daily Mirror believes that Mr Len Murray, the general secretary of the Trades Union Congress, will be accused of a set-out, of being the Ramsey MacDonald of the TUC, and so on. But by repudiating a TUC committee's decision to back the National Graphical Association in a one-day national strike he has strengthened the movement he works for.

"Mr Murray doesn't like the Government's trade union laws. Nor do we. But he recognizes that they were passed by a freely-elected parliament."

"If the law is wrong it is up to Parliament to put it right. If Parliament refuses then the voters have the right to change the Parliament."

The Sun says that it is rare for a TUC general secretary to repudiate a recommendation from a senior committee, but in this case Mr Murray has acted in the interest of the whole newspaper industry.

"We hope that the breathing space he has helped to provide will be wisely used to end a pointless, bitter and increasingly wasteful dispute in which there cannot be any winners," the paper says.

"Spare a thought, a tear or a prayer for the tragic Elizabeth Taylor today," says The Daily Star, one of several papers to comment on the actress who is reported to have become addicted to drugs taken for health reasons.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Telecommunications Bill, remaining stages, first day.

Lords (2.30): Debates on BBC annual report and handbook; the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme, and the parole system.

Anniversaries

Birch's James Bruce, explorer in Africa. Kinnaird, Stirlingshire, 1732. Paul Eluard, poet, Paris, 1895. George VI, York House, Sandringham, 1895. Deaths: Carl Phillip Emmanuel Bach, Hamburg, 1788. George Washington, Mount Vernon, Virginia, 1799. John Lubbock, horticulturist, London, 1843. Albert, Prince Consort, Windsor Castle, 1961. Stanley Baldwin, first Earl Baldwin of Bewdley, prime minister, 1923-24, 1924-29, 1932-37. Asquith, Worcester, 1947. Rolf Amundsen reached the South Pole, 1911.

Today is the Feast of Saint John of the Cross who was born in 1542 and canonized in 1726.

Weather forecast

A deep depression will remain slow moving S of Iceland with a strong SW airstream covering all areas

6am to midnight

London, SE, E, central S England, East Anglia, Midlands (E), Channel Islands: Dry at first, mainly cloudy, periods of rain spreading slowly from the W; wind S, strong, locally gale; max temp 9 to 11C (48 to 52F).
SW, NW, NE, central N England, Midlands (W), Wales, Lake District: Cloudy with outbreaks of rain, heavy at times; rain clearing from the W; S, strong to gale, veering SW, and moderating; max temp 9 to 11C (48 to 52F).

Ide of Man, Borden, Edinburgh and Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow: Cloudy with outbreaks of rain, heavy at times, clearing from the W; bright intervals and scattered showers later; wind S, strong to gale; max temp 8 to 10C (46 to 50F).

Central Highlands, Firth of Clyde, NW Scotland, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland, Northern Ireland: Sunny intervals, showers, heavy and prolonged in places; wind S, strong to gale; max temp 8 to 10C (46 to 50F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Thursday: Clouded over with showers or longer periods of rain, mild.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea, Straits of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind, strong to gale, perhaps severe gale at times later; sea very rough. St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind, S strong to severe gale, veering SW and moderating fresh or strong; sea, very rough, becoming moderate to rough.

Sun rises: 7.58am. Sun sets: 3.52pm.
Moon rises: 1.24pm. Moon sets: 1.02am.
Full Moon: December 20.

Lighting-up time

London 4.22 pm to 7.29 am
Bristol 4.32 pm to 7.39 am
Edinburgh 4.19 pm to 7.48 am
Penzance 4.58 pm to 7.44 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.
C F C F
London 11 52 10 50
Birmingham 11 52 10 50
Manchester 11 52 10 50
Liverpool 11 52 10 50
Cardiff 11 52 10 50
Edinburgh 11 52 10 50
Glasgow 11 52 10 50

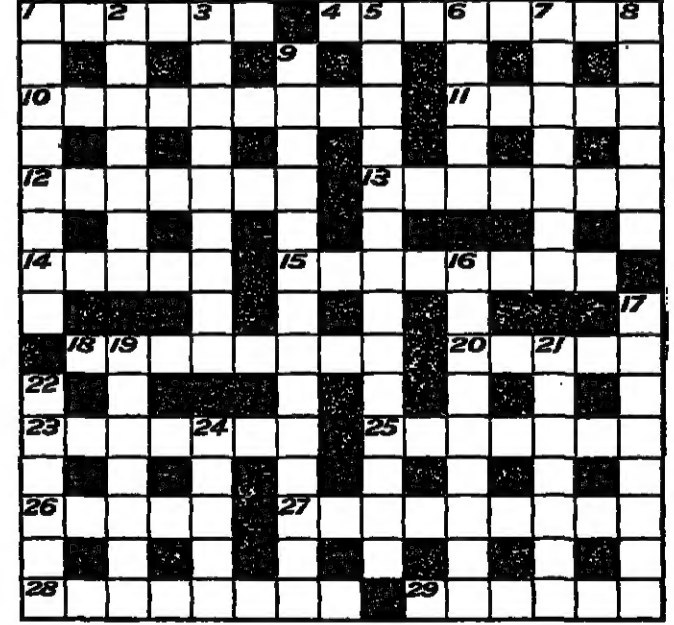
Highest and lowest

Yesterday: highest day temp: Kilmarnock, 13C (55F); lowest night temp: 4C (39F); highest night temp: 13C (55F); lowest night temp: 4C (39F).

London

Yesterday: Temp: max 9am to 5pm, 8C (46F); min 6pm to 9am, 1C (34F); humidity, 65%; light rain; rain, 0.2in; sun, 1.4hr; Bar, mean sea level, 6pm, 7.016; visibility, 1000m; wind, 1000m; 29.53in.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,309

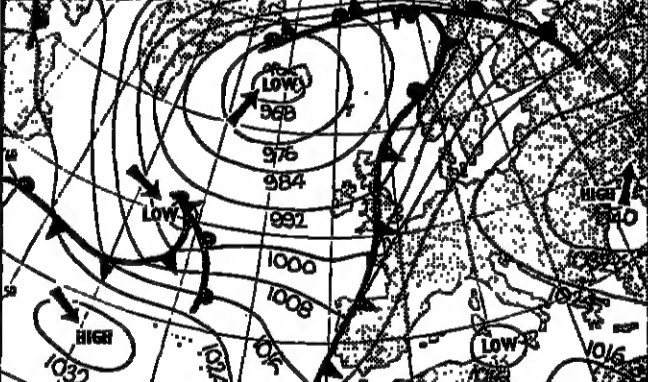


- ACROSS
- Complaint of a bluestocking? (6).
 - Second infusion is superb (8).
 - Regret not shifting car into reverse, he tells us (9).
 - Iniquity used by Speaker (5).
 - Seek money, a sovereign, for the provision of sops (7).
 - One slip, and the letter's rewritten (7).
 - Spy is right out of silver (5).
 - One is divided about the plant charges (8).
 - The neutral tint of Lady Jane's head (8).
 - Tire of longer standing (5).
 - Artist in London district uses all the colours (7).
 - Let everyone love and get married (7).
 - Small department that's proficient (5).
 - Sounding ruined fish's figure (9).
 - So I shan't reel and stagger (8).
 - Wander among blue rocks (6).

- DOWN
- See me deliver one article at midday (8).
 - Permit silence to be broken (7).
 - Drawing practice (9).

CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 10

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars



High tides

| | AM | HT | PM | HT |
|----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| London Bridge | 5.19 | 5.15 | 5.15 | 5.15 |
| Aberdeen | 8.57 | 8.4 | 8.50 | 8.50 |
| Abermouth | 1.23 | 1.18 | 1.24 | 1.24 |
| Belfast | 6.28 | 6.28 | 6.30 | 6.30 |
| Bristol | 1.08 | 1.05 | 1.10 | 1.10 |
| Cardiff | 1.31 | 1.27 | 1.33 | 1.33 |
| Dover | 5.54 | 5.53 | 5.53 | 5.53 |
| Falmouth | 11.51 | 11.43 | 11.48 | 11.48 |
| Glasgow | 6.43 | 6.39 | 6.46 | 6.46 |
| Harwich | 6.04 | 6.04 | 7.10 | 7.10 |
| Southport | 1.19 | 1.15 | 1.21 | 1.21 |
| Hull | 12.38 | 12.38 | 12.37 | 12.37 |
| Warrington | 12.32 | 12.32 | 12.31 | 12.31 |
| Wexford | 1.02 | 1.02 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| Liverpool | 6.14 | 7.1 | 6.36 | 7.1 |
| London | 1.27 | 1.27 | 1.26 | 1.26 |
| London | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| Penzance | 11.40 | 11.40 | 11.40 | 11.40 |
| Portsmouth | 6.28 | 6.28 | 6.30 | 6.30 |
| Southampton | 6.03 | 6.03 | 6.04 | 6.04 |
| Swansea | 11.13 | 11.13 | 11.13 | 11.13 |
| Tees | 12.52 | 12.52 | 12.51 | 12.51 |
| Walsby-on-Haze | 11.13 | 11.13 | 11.13 | 11.13 |

— blue sky — blue sky and cloud — cloudy — overcast — 1-fog 2-drizzle 3-rain 4-m-m-rain 5-snow 6-thunderstorm 7-showers.